Newspapers

Browsing Through 93-Year-Old Paper

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Trib-Star 1-28-62

Some time ago Elbert Crichfield of RR 2, Shelburn bought an antique dresser at Wick's sale held north of Hymera. The mirror in the oval-shaped frame above the dresser was beyond re-silvering, so Mr. Crichfield decided to replace it with a new one. When the old mirror was removed from its frame, part of an old newspaper was found. Dated Aug. 12, 1868, this issue of the NEW YORK TRIBUNE had been cut to fit the oval-shaped frame and had been used as extra padding to hold the mirror tightly in place.

Any old newspaper, regardless of age or condition, is most interesting to me. I'm always very appreciative when their finders bring them to me, whether a gift or a loan. Historically speaking, old newspapers are classified as original research source material, and for that reason are invaluable.

Dorothy J. Clark

The New York domestice news of the week of Aug. 12, 1868, concerned the explosion of a gas main in the Capitol building, under the center of the dome, in what is known as the Washington crypt, which blew out all the heavy framework surounding it, tearing all the doors, frames and windows to splinters, and scattering the fragments through the basement passages in all directions.

The effect of the explosion was such as to create alarm for a time for the safety of the entire building. Part of the funeral paraphernalia of the late President Lincoln which had been placed for safe keeping in the crypt was ignited by the flames and partially destroyed. The broken glass from the basement windows was blown through the passages as far as the west entrance to the building. Portions of the woodwork were scattered through a large portion of the eastern and southern wings of the old building. Fortunately no one was in the immediate vicinity at the time of the accident, or the result might have been much more serious. As it was no one was injured.

Market News.

The market report included many items not listed today. Items such as saltpetre, spelter, stearin, sumac, whalebone, soap and whisky.

Quite a bit of space was devoted to England's drouth which was reported in its fifty-fourth day. In this country everyone was talking about the disease among the Western cattle which had been diagnosed as malignant [illegible]d not rinderpest as announced.

The new music of August, 1868, included such song titles as: "You'll Sometimes Think of Me" . . . "Kitty McGee" by Henry Tucker; "The Eye That Brightens When I Come" . . . "Live in My Heart and Pay No Rent" . . . "Pulling Hard Against the Stream" . . . "Kafoosleum," a comic; "Pretty Little Sarah" . . . "Handsome as a Rose" . . . and "My Mother-in-Law." These sold for thirty or thirty-five cents each. Arrangements for the flute or violin were only fifteen cents.

Most of the newspaper was given over to political news and advertisements for campaign items of the presidential candidates. Readers could order steel engravings of Grant, Colfax, Seymour and Blair. Other items offered for sale included campaign flags, pins, medals, sleeve buttons, shirt studs, songsters, badges and envelopes. For a quarter you could buy a booklet containing the life histories of Grant and Colfax, and the Grant genealogy. For the torchlight parades you could buy torches, lanterns, caps and capes.

The 1868 Republican Convention met at Chicago while President Andrew Johnson's impreachment trial was still in progress. General Grant was chosen to head the Republican ticket. Leaders of the party thought he would make an ideal figurehead, for he knew nothing about politics. He had never held public office and only once in his life had taken the trouble to vote. He was enthusiastically suppored by his former soldiers and by other Northerners who gave him credit for saving the Union.

The Democrats nominated former Governor Horaito Seymour of New York. They condemned the Radical program of reconstruction, demanded an end of military rule in the South, and applauded President Johnson.

Southern States Rejoin.

Seven Confederate states were readmitted to the Union before the November election. All but two went Republican. Grant won a decisive victory in the electoral college (214 to 80), but had only a bare majority of the popular votes.

This old newspaper printed this "new" song to an old measure:

"General Blair came to town
Riding a new hobby,
He stuck a war-plume in his hat,
The Rebels thought it nobby,
General Blair! Ha! Ha! Ha!
The General found it handy;
But the country knows that he would be
No better than one Andy."

Our state of Indiana made the New York news. "Whatever the Republicans of other states may be doing, the Republicans of Indiana can surely not be charged with lukewarmness and inactivity. Satisfied as they are that they will elect their State ticket in October by from fifteen to twenty thousand majority, and that they will give Grant and Colfax in November a larger majority than the Republicans have yet obtained in Indiana, they proceed with the same energy and painstaking deliberation as though the issue were extremely doubtful, and as though their Democratic adversaries would contest every inch of the ground."

An immense Republican mass meeting was held in Indianapolis on August 10th, 1868. The speakers were General John A. Logan, General George H. Thomas, General Daniel E. Sickles and others. Over ten thousand "Fighting Boys in Blue" were present.

The following tribute to General Grant was adopted:

"I would rather have Grant, if he's silent and still,
Than an empty declaimer of words;
I would rather have Grant, with his good honest will,
Than one from noisy political hordes.
His deeds are well written in the face of the world,
And he who desires can read them afar;
He stands forth today with his banner unfurled,
In the light of his acts—Our National Star."

This should prove to my readers just how much history can be found in even the fragments of old newspapers. Don't ever throw them away!

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Clark, Dorothy

Humor of 'Good Ole Days Found in 1911 Newspapers

T. H. Trib-Star 11/17/68

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

As a change from reading century-old newspapers, I frequently read local reportings of only half a century ago, and find them just as interesting.

For instance, the Clinton Public Library, gift of Andrew Carnegie, finally opened to the public on November 22nd, 1911, after five years of controversy and very slow progress. It seems the board and other officials were not in harmony, so no effort was made for any sort of opening ceremonies. According to one Clintonian, "The doors were just thrown open to the public and that was all there was to it."

How many readers remember the Indiana Suit & Skirt Co. located on the second floor of the Odd Fellows Bldg., Eighth and Ohio streets?

DOROTHY J. CLARK

Keuneke's Millinery, with two locations at 421 Wabash and 22 South 4th, were selling untrimmed hats from 50 cents up and hats trimmed with fancy feathers and wings 95 cents up.

Girls with freckles in 1911 were urged to try Wilson's Freckle Cream on sale at Arthur Baur's Pharmacy. Two large jars of this product were guaranteed "to bleach your tan."

TRIBUNE want ads cost only one cent a word in 1911, and the Terre Haute Water Works had a very graphic three-column advertisement showing the contrast between the housewife who was "still tied to the pump" and the "progressive housekeeper enjoying filtered water in the kitchen at a nominal cost—less than a red postage stamp per day."

The advertisement continued with this message: "There are some who cannot afford even a postage stamp a day, but the large majority of men who work for wages, who do not hesitate to ride on the street cars, or smoke a cigar, can easily afford filtered water in the kitchen. In a six-room house, the rate is 1½ cents per day. . . . Some have put off their wives with excuses of various kinds. Now, right now, before the weather is any colder, is the time!" Just think of the husbands all over town getting an earful after that newspaper hit the porch.

Good Food Buys

Lederer-Feibelman Co., located opposite the Traction Station, had a full page advertisement for their big Thanksgiving sale. In addition to their usual dry goods, clothing and furniture, they were offering fully dressed poultry—chickens and ducks at 13½ cents a pound and turkeys for 22 cents a pound.

Men's clothing could be purchased at John Bruno's, 1517 Wabash, Lee Goodman & Sons, 410 Wabash, Kleeman Dry Goods Co., Sixth & Wabash, and Thorman & Schloss, 668-670 Wabash.

In November, 1911, the annual bazaar of the Central Christian Church was being held in the church parlors, 7th & Mulberry. Each night of the week-long bazaar there was a different entertainment planned. The ladies gave little plays, acted out a gypsy wedding, Spanish drills, Greek tableaux, Indian pow wow, Japanese drill, Dutch songs and several readings.

Church ladies mentioned were: Misses Lydia Mills, Eva Martin, Ida Mills, Hyla Mills and Martha Williams; Mesdames. Sam Axe, W. A. Russell, Curtis Drake and C. A. Ecker.

Patrol Brigade Formed

Women were certainly active in their civic duties in 1911. A committee of seven women calling themselves the Red Cross Patrol Brigade bore down on the fire headquarters company armed with needles, thread and Red Cross Seal badges and proceeded to decorate the firefighters.

This Patrol Brigade, scheduled as the biggest publicity stunt to boost the sale of Red Cross seals during the Christmas season, started from the police station at 9 a.m.

Driving at a rapid rate through Wabash Avenue with Patrolman Bishop handling the reins, the wagon, bearing huge posters attracted considerable attention.

In the Brigade were: Mrs. Nora Ragsdale and the Misses Harriet Oakley, Martha Hensel, Maude Wehr, Ruth Schuster, Dora Burr and Rhoda Welding. Deft fingers worked rapidly at the various fire houses and squad after squad of firefighters were decorated with the little badges.

The women made the air ring with a yell specially devised for the occasion:

"Red Cross; Red Cross! Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
Red Cross; Red Cross! Rah! Rah! Rah! Rah!
Red Cross Christmas Seals!
Rah! Rah! Rah!"

All the women were blowing horns and attracted much attention as they were driven over town. It was the first experience riding in a patrol wagon for the ladies. Their stunt must have stimulated sales because several rush orders for more seals had to be sent to headquarters in Indianapolis.

These ladies probably would have organized HELP in their day if they had taken time off to have coffee!

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

CLARK, Dorothy J

125-Year Old Newspaper Carries Items of Interest

TRIB-STAR 1-18-70

By DOROTHY CLARK

Knowing my interest in all things old pertaining to Terre Haute and the surrounding area, Mrs. Vergil Werremeyer, 1420 Maple Ave., loaned her keepsake copy of the old "Wabash Courier," Vol. 13, No. 20, dated January 18, 1845. Published every Saturday morning in Terre Haute, the Courier cost $2 for a year's subscription. Advertising cost $1 per square (10 lines equalled one square) inserted three times.

The proprietor and editor of the "Wabash Courier" was Thomas Dowling. Few men were better fitted for the place and position he occupied. "He was a printer by trade, an editor by instinct, full of wit, a fine controversalist, a capital story teller, a liberal partisan, though an ardent Whig. He was popular with all classes, being a power on the tripod, in the social circle, and on the stump, and did much in moulding and directing the public sentiment of the people, according to historian C. C. Oakey.

This particular issue of the Wabash Courier contained the entire speech of Mr. Dole of Vermillion on the subject of the Wabash & Erie Canal. On Feb. 27 a bill providing that the tolls on the Wabash & Erie Canal should "hereafter be made payable in par funds," was introduced in the State Legislature. The bill was under consideration in the State Senate when Mr. Dole spoke against its passage.

Dorothy Clark

Tolls and water rents from the canal amounted to about $60,000 during the year 1844, although during two months of the most busy season of that year navigation was entirely closed in consequence of the breaks caused by unprecedented high waters in the spring.

Mr. Dole felt that if this much revenue was possible when the canal was completed only through the most thinly settled portion of the state with little surplus produce, what would be the income when the canal was completed below Lafayette to Terre Haute?

He estimated an annual income of $300,000 when the surplus products of the whole Wabash Valley, together with those of the eastern portion of Illinois would seek the canal as an outlet to market. Salt, iron, groceries and every description of merchandise demanded by the wants of the country would be carried by the canal.

Senator Dole reminded his colleagues that upon receipt of the lands granted by the U.S. government to assist in the construction of the canal from Lafayette to Terre Haute, they pledged the State to complete the work in 1847.

Another action of the Indiana Legislature which concerned Terre Haute was the Senate passage of the Bill for the incorporation of the Terre Haute Draw-Bridge Company.

Bad Times

The State Treasury was in bad condition in 1845, the times were hard, and the taxes were high. The state was almost bankrupt due to unwise spending on internal improvements such as the Wabash & Erie Canal. Another Whitcomb was Governor of Indiana in 1845, Gov. James Whitcomb, Democrat (1843-1848).

The great subject of national discussion was Texas' annexation. Polk had been elected President of the United State, defeating Henry Clay and the Mexican War was brewing.

Here in Terre Haute, the following advertisement appeared in the 1845 newspaper: "To the Public — The subscriber has taken back his tavern, the house that Mr. Bradley kept for a short time. The house is in Terre Haute, well known and so-called, "The Washingtonian House," on 2nd St., north of the National Road, nighest to the Court House. Mr. Bradley gave the house the name of the Stewart House. The subscriber returns the public and citizens of Terre Haute his kind thanks for their past favors, and hopes they will continue their patronage to the indefatigable (signed) Matthew Stewart. N. B. About 20 genteel boarders can be taken by the year or week on accommodating terms. Liberal wages will be given for a man cook, by the month or year . . ."

John Burton offered the well

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Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

known stand called the Pavilion, corner of 5th and Cherry streets, for rent. He also wanted to rent the Broadway House, corner of Market and Cherry streets, another tavern stand.

Signs which once hung over downtown stores and shops have always intrigued me, and I found mention of the following in this 1845 newspaper: "Sign of the Golden Coffee Pot, wholesale and retail manufactory of Copper, Tin and Sheet Iron."

"At the sign of the Stove & Plough on the west side of the public square, Joseph Grover offered all kinds of stoves including cooking, parlor, Franklin, church, school house, coal and pyramid stoves."

Reinhard & Wood offered dry goods at the "sign of the spinning wheel, upper end of National Road street."

S. H. Potter & Co.'s advertisement informed the public that they were again ready for hardware business "at the sign of the same old Padlock, two doors south of the old spinning wheel, upper end of National Road street."

J. B. Jenckes ran a box ad offering to sell "40 acres of land on National Road, 7 miles east of Terre Haute, said to be the highest land between Terre Haute and Indianapolis, and a first rate situation for a Public House. As the subscriber intends moving to the south next spring it will be sold very cheap."

Local advertisements occupied much of the newspaper's four pages of six columns each. Bement's Whole Store on the west side of the Public Square wanted to buy for cash 5,000 bushels of Flaxseed, 300 bushels Clover Seed, 500 bushels Timothy Seed, 3,000 pounds Beeswax, 2,000 pounds Ginseng, 2,500 lbs. Tallow and 4,000 lbs. Feathers. They had for sale such items as juniata iron, cast steel, English and American blister steel, spring steel, Pittsburgh castings, wagon boxes, kegs of nails, wire, springs, sad irons, Rio and Java Coffee, New Orleans sugar, Boston loaf sugar, molasses, imperial, gun powder and Young Hyson Teas, S. F. Indigo, madder, allum, copperas, Boston soap, Tanner's oil, family flour, tin plates, mackerel in barrels, writing and wrapping paper, tobacco, window glass, glass tumblers, flasks, sieves and buckets, queensware, cotton batting, leather, brandy, Holland gin, wines, Monongahela whiskey and 100 barrels of "red eye."

E. Flint operated the Philadelphia Book Store. Potwin & Hathorn owned the Wabash Store, "just opened in Mr. Rose's Brick Block, west side of public square, and one door south of S. O. Potter & Co.'s new hardware store."

The People's Store "at the Yellow House, north of the Court House" was another dry goods store owned by James S. Freeman. F. R. Whipple ran a wholesale dry goods store on the west side of the public square next door to Messrs. Nippert, Molitor & Co.

The Terre Haute Book Bindery, owned by Z. Mann, was located on Second street, north of Stewart's Hotel. I. P. Windle ran a Blacksmithing business in a shop recently erected on the National Road, west of the National Hotel.

H. W. Taylor was advertised as "Surgeon Dentist." The Terre Haute Drug Store, new establishment of Cunningham & Warren, was located next door to M. W. Sedam's, directly north of the Court House.

In other news, it was announced that "the Bloomington Stage will leave Terre Haute every Monday and Friday, 5 A.M. and returning will leave Bloomington every Tuesday and Saturday morning."

In Prairieton the partnership of Robert Hoggatt and Joseph Taylor was dissolved May 22, 1943 according to public notice.

In a lighter vein, this small item: "Mrs. Horace Blinn who lived on Market St. lost a large black silk shawl with vine figures and fringe and was offering a reward . . ."

Early Newspapers Carry Stories of Varied Events

Community Affairs File

Ts SEP 30 1973

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

If my readers had picked up THE DAILY WABASH EXPRESS newspaper from their front porch this morning instead of the Sunday TRIBUNE-STAR—and this was 1864 instead of 1973 — they would have read some very different news items indeed.

At the Common Council meeting, His Honor Mayor Lange and Councilmen McKeen, Coats, O'Boyle, Fellenzer, Engles, Pence, Wilkinson, Haney and Paddock granted Henry Keneke's petition for a license for theatrical exhibitions at his building called "Concert Hall" on North Fifth street. This license cost $50 a year for three years.

The Council also decreed that a 500-barrel fire cistern was to be installed at Seventh and Wabash, and another at Fourth and Lafayette Road, near the new school house on North Fifth street. They also increased the police department to twelve men.

A few weeks later the momentous decision was made not to move the post office — just enlarge the facilities with a brick addition.

The cornerstone of the new German Catholic church on East Ohio St. was laid Oct. 1, 1864.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

The marble works of Walter & Eppinghousen furnished an unusual news item. It seems Charles Epinghousen had been commissioned to design and execute a most elaborate and unusual headstone for the grave of the infant son of Lew Townsend, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

On one side of this unique tombstone was carved the Saviour's blessing, the kneeling forms of innocent children, while above a large cluster of rosebuds hovered emblematically.

Portrayed in the larger blooms were the father and mother, in the bursting buds were the two living children, while in the wilted and drooping bud, barely clinging to the parent stem, was the dead child. Carved underneath on a scroll was the inscription, "Our darling boy."

The next time I'm in Cincinnati, and can find the time, I'm going to try to find this tombstone (if it's still in existence.)

About the middle of September, 1864, there were frequent news items concerning planned balloon ascensions. Prof. Steiner, the celebrated aeronaut who accompanied the Army of the Potomac making aerial reconnoissances of the enemy's movements, proposed to make a grand ascension in his magnificent balloon the "Gen. U.S. Grant" sometime later in the month. One of the oldest aeronauts in this country, Prof. Steiner had over 14 years experience in making aerial voyages from all parts of this and other countries. He planned to go from Terre Haute to New York, and a large crowd was predicted to witness the daring aeronaut take his departure for the clouds from the local Fairgrounds.

On Oct. 1 omnibuses left the city every 15 minutes taking the large crowds of spectators to the Fairgrounds (Wabash at Brown Aven. now). In addition to the main event, there were army balloon ascensions "to accommodate those who wish to ascend 1,000 ft." scheduled for the entire day.

Just before Christmas, 1864, there was another announcement. "Prof. Merganser informs the public of Terre

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Haute and neighboring villages that he will perform his celebrated flying voyage in Terre Haute, Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 12 o'clock noon. He will sail from the Terre Haute Draw Bridge to the bend of the river southward and return. This wonderful feat is accomplished simply with the aid of wings, which all may inspect before and after the voyage. The public generally are invited to be present.

On Dec. 28 the editor made the following announcement: "The Merganser Sell was the sensation of yesterday. Hundreds of people flocked to the river to see the Professor whose 'wings could be inspected before and after the voyage' fly from the Draw Bridge to the bend of the river southward and return. With the crowd we went down directly after noon and found about 2,000 people about the bridge and on the river bank: on foot and in carriages, eagerly watching the moment when 'Merganser' should stretch his wings. But they waited in vain. Merganser, from some cause, failed to appear."

The editor explained that the first advertisement was inserted and paid for, but the second time payment was only assured, not paid. He also stated that Webster's Dictionary defined Merganser as "a water fowl of genus Mergus; called also goosander." In other words, the public (and the editor) had been had!

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A $500 reward was offered for the apprehension of the scoundrel who cut the canal. The reward was to be paid for any information that will "lead to the conviction of person or persons who cut the canal bank, on the night of 8th instant, at the place known as the round pond, two miles above Terre Haute." This was by order of General Supt. Jas. Johnson, of District N. 5.

A short time later it was announced that the office of the trustees of the Wabash & Erie Canal, and the Canal Land Office, was removed to Dowling's new building on Sixth Street in the north room.

I'm sure the news that the new draw-bridge at the foot of Main Street was finally ready to accommodate travel was most welcome. "It will not be used until a toll house is erected, unless the rickety affair now in use should take a notion to go south with the first freshet."

The rate of toll to be charged to use the new bridge was listed. The ferry of Barbour S. Pinson, known as Durkee's Ferry, was allowed to charge the same rates.

Like most of my readers I like to read the news, but sometimes it's more fun to read the local news of former years.

Community Affairs File

A Look at the News In the Year of 1823

Tr JUL 27 1975

Tr JUL 27 1975

BY DOROTHY J. CLARK

Vigo County Public Library

Printed and published nearly every Monday in Terre Haute (every Wednesday in August) by J. W. Osborn, THE WESTERN REGISTER & TERRE HAUTE ADVERTISER cost two dollars per annum, if paid in advance; $2.50 if paid within six months; and three dollars if paid at expiration of one year. If hard money was not readily available that first year of 1823, produce of most kinds was received in payment for subscriptions. The editor had to eat too.

From its first issue of July 28, 1823 to October, the size of the newsprint was 10½x17, consisting of a four-column page. It was only four pages, really, one sheet of paper printed on both sides and folded double. Usually three columns of the front page along with the entire second page were taken up with foreign news. Little space was taken up with local news unless it was election time. Advertisements were the bread and butter of the newspaper, as they are now, along with legal notices, and were read avidly by the villagers.

In March, 1824, the newsprint did not arrive on the steamboat from Louisville, so the newspaper was printed on typing-paper size sheets.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

The editor stated: "Common advertisements not exceeding a square will be inserted three times for $1.25 for each subsequent insertion. Longer advertisements will be published in the same proportion."

Typical of the local advertisements was the one placed by Joseph Mark, administrator of the estate of Solomon Tevebaugh, notifying those indebted to the late Mr. Tevebaugh should pay up.

Ezekial Benjamin informed "his friends and the public in general that he carries on the business of blacksmithing in the village of Terre Haute . . . ploughshares and log chains will be made in a workmanlike manner for eight cents per pound if the iron is furnished, or 25 cents he furnishing it." Mr. Benjamin also attended to the river ferry owned by Dr. Modisett.

In one issue of the old REGISTER was an account of the 4th of July celebration held by the citizens of Edgar County, Ill. . . . "About 12 o'clock the company assembled when the Declaration of Independence was read by William Lowry, Esquire, "with that pathos and feeling which invariable render this ceremony so impressive . . . after which he delivered a very appropriate, forcible and animated oration."

The company then partook of a dinner prepared for the occasion. After the removal of the cloth, the following toasts were drank (all thirty of them!):

First, "the day we celebrate—may each revolving annum find us still possessed of national independence and the political purity of 1776."

The memory of George Washington—"superior alike to panegyric and to detraction, final as natures laws, its duration will be coeval with time itself."

Then followed toasts to the union of the state—"may discord and faction cease; the congress of 1776; Governor Coles; the minority of our last legislature; the constitution of the State of Illinois; the press; the standard of liberty; Benjamin Franklin; Peace, Agriculture, Commerce and Manufacturers—the four great pillars of our national prosperity; Literature, Agriculture and Commerce—the fame, pride and glory of America; and "the durable foundation of all national prosperity just laws, virtuous officers and well educated citizens."

There followed toasts to the Congress of the United States; State of Illinois Spirit of Liberty; Major General Andrew Jackson — the hero of New Orleans; to "a speedy annihilation to all empty sounds and titles"; James Monroe; to the next president of the U.S.; to John Q. Adams; to the Judges of Illinois; to the "Star Spangled Banner"; and to the American Family.

Thomas Cox offered a toast to "those citizens who wish for slavery—may they retire to the south of the Ohio River, and not disturb the freedom of Illinois.

Isaac Sandford gave a toast to "the unlawful wheels of the machinery of our last legislature, for a new convention to bring slavery into our state—may every band and spoke be broken at our next election."

(over)

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Elijah Smith, Esquire, toasted Edgar County—"may she grow in virtue as she grows in population."

George Boord became carried away with his toast "Hark! Hark! The God of Heavens cries alloud, to inflame the people of the state of Illinois to say with one voice that her fair soill shall never be trodden by the foot of slavery." Jonathan Mayo, Esquire, and Solomon Aldrich echoed his sentiments for Illinois. From the newspaper account it would seem the 4th of July was well celebrated.

Terre Haute merchant John F. Cruft had just received and is now opening at the new store directly west of the courthouse an extensive as-

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Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

sortment of summer, fall and winter dry goods, groceries, glass, queensware and hardware . . . wrought and cut nails, best Juniata iron, fine and coarse shoes, medicines, wool and fur hats, also one case of ladies straw bonnets of the latest New York and Philadelphia fashion."

Dr. A. Hotchkiss of Otter Creek Township ran a public notice to his patients of the last four years for a "general settlement and some CASH for services so long since rendered."

Isaac C. Elston advertised he had received a new shipment of dry goods, hardware, cutler, queensware, china glassware, fresh groceries, medicines and Liverpool, Kenhawa and Saline salt . . . salt sold for about two dollars a bushel at that time.

In December, 1823, Elisha Groves put a notice in the REGISTER: "Whereas my wife Jane voluntarily left my and board without any just cause on the first October, 1823, this is to forbid all persons from harbouring or trusting her on my account; as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date."

Vigo County Public Library was open for perusual by the citizens. Books could be issued or returned every day except Sunday between the hours of 10 and 12 a.m. and 2 and 4 p.m. at the office of John Britton, Librarian. About 500 books were available, and by the end of the year of 1823, there were 700 volumes.

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File
Ts JUN 27 1978

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Printed and published nearly every Monday in Terre Haute (every Wednesday in the month of August) by J.W. Osborn was THE WESTERN REGISTER & TERRE HAUTE ADVERTISER. It cost two dollars per annum if paid in advance, $2.50 if paid within six months, and three dollars if paid at the expiration of one year.

If hard money was not readily available, produce of most kinds was received for subscriptions from its first issue July 28, to Oct., 1823.

The size of the newspaper was only 10 ½ by 17 ½ or 14 inches, according to newsprint available. It was one double-fold, four columns to the page, and only four pages. Three columns of the front page were taken up with foreign news plus all of page two.

During March, 1824, the news paper was printed on typing paper size sheets because the newsprint did not arrive on the steamboat from Louisville.

The editor stated, "common advertisements not exceeding a square will be inserted three times for $1.25 for each subsequent insertion. Longer advertisements will be published in the same proportion."

Joseph Mark, administrator of the estate of Solomon Tevebaugh, inserted a notice to the effect that "those indebted to the late Mr. Tevebaugh should pay up"

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Mr. Benjamin also attended to the river ferry owned by Dr. Modisett. "He is well provided with a good flat boat and other crafts necessary for the public convenience and safety..."

One early edition carried an account of the Fourth of July celebration held by the citizens of Edgar County, Ill., and I quote: "about 12 o'clock the company assembled when the Declaration of Independence was read by William Lowry, Esquire, with that pathos and feeling which invariable render this ceremony so impressive...after which he delivered a very appropriate forcible and animated oration."

The company then partook of a dinner prepared for the occasion. After the removal of the cloth, the following toasts were drunk (all thirty of them). First, they toasted "the day we celebrate - may each revolving annum find us still possessed of national independence and the political purity of 1776."

Next, they toasted the memory of George Washington, the union of the State of Illinois, the Congress of 1776, Governor Coles, the minority of the last legislature, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, the press, the standard of liberty, and Benjamin Franklin.

The toasts continued with hurrahs for peace, agriculture, commerce and manufacturers, literature, just laws, the Spirit of Liberty, Major General Andrew Jackson, the hero of New Orleans, James Monroe, John Q. Adams, the American family, the Star Spangled Banner, and the next president of the United States.

Thomas Cox toasted those citizens for slavery "may they retire to the south of the Ohio river and not disturb the freedom of Illinois. Other toasts were offered by Isaac Sandford, Elijah Austin, George Boord, Jonathan Mayo and Solomon Aldrich.

Long lists of letters being held at the local Post Office were published hoping they'd be claimed before sending them to the Dead Letter Office.

Dr. A. Hotchkiss, of Otter Creek Township, ran a public notice to his patients of the last four years for "a general settlement and CASH for services so long since rendered."

Among the lists of sheriff's sales by Sheriff T.H.Clarke was the one caused by Moses Hoggatt sueing Caleb Arnold for his lots in the town of Smyrna, his cow and calf, two steers, a heifer, two shoats, one stand of bed curtains, one jug, one small kettle, two jars, one grid iron, one pair snuffers and tray, one trunk, one volume of "Picture of Cincinnati", two framed pictures, one barrel with vinegar, four pork barrels..." The sale was to take place at the house of Moses Hoggatt in Prairie Creek.

The citizens of the Vigo County were informed that the "Public Library is open for their perusal, by their complying with the regulations of the institution where due attention will be paid to the issuing and returning of Books, each day in

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
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over

the week (Sundays excepted) between the hours of 10 and 12 and 2 and 4 at my office in Terre Haute...(signed) John Britton, Librarian."

This early library contained about 500 books, and by the end of the year had grown to 700 volumes.

Isaac C. Elston advertised he had received a new shipment of dry goods, hardware, cutlery, queensware, china, glassware, fresh groceries, medicines and Liverpool, Kenhawa and Saline salt which sold for about two dollars a bushel at that time.

James M. Love advertised that he had three excellent keel boats which he intended plying on the Wabash river between Terre Haute and Shawneetown. Those with freight to move were asked to contact W. A. Docker and Samuel Marshall, of Shawneetown; John Baker of Harmony; S. Tomlinson, of Vincennes; Mr. Smith, of York; S. Colman, of Merom, and Linton and Collett, of Terre Haute.

In Dec. 1823, Elisha Groves ran a notice several times in the paper. "Whereas my wife Jane voluntarily left my bed and board without any just cause on the 1st October, 1823, this is to forbid all persons from harbouring or trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date..."

Old newspapers are fascinating reading today. There's no better way to learn what was happening in our community in the early days.

—Historically Speaking—

By Dorothy Clark

D. Clark

County Newspapers— Their Early History

(T. H.)

Vault Journal

Ts JUN 19 1977

Community Affairs File

Early in 1861, Chris F. Roderus, who admitted to a nodding acquaintance with the "Three R's" in both German and English, applied for work in a German print shop at Third and Cherry streets owned by a Mr. Keller. He was to receive one dollar a week for his labors.

As agent of the "Westliche Post" of St. Louis, Mr. Keller printed a sheet about 12 by 14 inches in size, devoted to local German news as a supplement on a dilapidated press of unknown pattern.

Roderus was given a "stick" and a rule and stood up to a case before a piece of copy. "And now," said Keller, who took a similar position alongside of him, "we'll see who gets his stick filled first." Naturally, Keller beat young Roderus.

In fact, after getting out the supplement that week, his printer, Lewis Duenweg, quit and the supplement discontinued.

Some time later, a German printer named Saenger arrived from New York City and started a "creditable" newspaper on the west side of the courthouse square.

Mr. Saenger had walked from New York equipped with a light camping outfit, a gun and hunting knife.

The paper died after a short struggle, and Mr. Saenger continued on his way west to St. Louis. Roderus became an apprentice on the Journal, an evening paper published by C.F. Cookerly, with J.B. Edmunds as local editor.

The Wabash Express was the other daily, a morning paper, owned by C.W. Cruft and managed by P.S. Westfall. I.M. Brown intermittently published weekly papers. All had job printing offices in connection with the newspaper publishing.

The Journal had about 400 subscribers for the daily, and the Express had some 500. Few business men advertised in those early days.

Working on the Express were J.A. Bryan, Bish Osborn, Ike Williams, Wes Harper and Henry McClain. On the Journal were Lawrence Burget, Ed and John Hitchcock, Laurence Connelly, Charles Watson and Bill Breasher, with John S. Jordan as foreman.

The paper cost 15 cents per week, and was delivered by two carriers, one north of Wabash Avenue and one south.

The Journal printed their sheet on a Washington hand press and the Express on a two-man power press. The job presses were "powered" in the same manner.

Then came the Civil War, and John A. Bryan, Bob Gapen, Henry McClain, from the Express, and Lawrence Burget, with Hitchcock and Charles Watson, from the Journal, were among the first to respond to the call of arms.

Bob Gapen was Terre Haute's first printer to give his life for his country. Later, near the close of the war, "Squire" Connelly and Wes Harper enlisted.

Wilson Harper, then clerking in Edsall & Root Dry Goods Store, laid down his yard stick and shouldered a musket. Upon his return, he learned the printer's trade at the Express.

Mrs. Watson, the young wife of Charles Watson, was the first woman to work in a printing office in Terre Haute. She was employed in the Journal's office after her husband's enlistment in the army.

One summer morning, early in 1862, Mr. Roderus arrived at the newspaper office to find most of the equipment on the sidewalk and in the gutter in front of the building. Upstairs he found broken presses, stones, stands and much "pied" type.

A company or two of the 43rd Regiment had taken offence at an editorial published in the paper and had marched from Camp Vigo at the old fairgrounds north of the city the evening before and voiced its strong disapproval with vandalism.

Prominent Democrats soon raised enough money to set the paper back on its feet, and publication resumed. A few years later after the close of the war, the state partially reimbursed Col. Cookerly for his loss.

Some time after its rehabilitation, the Journal passed into the hands of Edmunds & Jordan who converted it into a morning paper. The office was moved to Ohio Street, near Fourth, a cylinder press (also propelled by man power) was added, and under their management began to make some money which it had never done before.

After a time, the office was moved again, this time to the northwest corner of Third and

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Main streets.

The Banner, a German paper, was launched about this time by Peter Gfroerer and continued several years. Later, Simon Hirsch published a German paper, and still later the Journal made its appearance.

About 1864-65 the first Typographical Union was organized through the efforts of H.A. Byers, Edward Aitken and John A. Bryan, employed on the evening paper printed at the northeast corner of Fourth and Ohio by Rufus Simpson.

Roderus still had nearly a year to serve of his apprenticeship, but Messrs. Edmunds and Jordan remitted the time so he could become a full-fledged printer and member of the Union.

Mr. Simpson's paper continued until he was elected county auditor, Aitken became one of his clerks, and after a year or two the Union lapsed through lack of members and interest.

About this time, Major O.J. Smith and C.W. Brown launched the Saturday Evening Gazette employing Lyman Archer, Reese, English, Henry McClain and H.O. Carr.

Shortly after, Edwin S. Erney, a deputy under Sheriff W.S. Stewart, took exception to some criticism published about him and opened fire on the Major near Third and Main, wounding him in the thigh.

Trying to prevent the shooting, C.W Brown rushed toward Erney and received another bullet in the chest which was nearly fatal.

This newspaper saga will be continued next week...

—Historically Speaking—

Community Affairs File

By Dorothy Clark

Dorothy Clark +

More Local History About Newspapers

Ts JUN 26 1977

Last week's column began the recollections of local printer, Chris F. Roderus, who began his career on a German newspaper here in 1861. The story continues . .

Col. R. N. Hudson purchased the Gazette, moved the office to North Fifth Street, and began the publication of the Daily Evening Gazette.

This was about the time the Typographical Union was reorganized and chartered as No. 76. Miss Emma Carter, who later became Mrs. C. F. Roderus, became an early member and was the first female to receive a card in Terre Haute.

Following reorganization, Typographical Union No. 76 "pulled off" one of the most remarkable Fourth of July excursions ever witnessed in this city.

They chartered a train for Perrysville, north on the T.H.& E. Railroad, consisting of a few passenger coaches, a number of box, cattle and flat cars, which were provided with board seats, all filled by a good-natured crowd.

Col. R. W. Thompson was the orator that day and was presented with a suitably engraved silver loving cup by the union. Over $1,000 was realized from the excursion.

Several years later union members sponsored a successful public ball at Turner Hall, later Germania Hall, at which a typesetting contest was held. McLaughlin won out over Jacob Truinett and Leslie Priest.

Major Smith started the Saturday Evening Mail combined with a cooperative job office in which Jacob Clifton, Lyman Archer, Reese, English and Harvey Carr were stockholders.

The Journal passed from Edmunds and Jordan into the hands of E. L. Jones, and after a time suspended publication.

At the demise of the Mail printing company, Dick Moore and C. O. Ebel purchased part of its material and entered the job printing field. Later, Ernest Langen took over Ebel's interest and the firm became known as Moore & Langen.

It rapidly grew, and when the Locomotive Firemen's Magazine was started, while E. V. Debs was secretary-treasurer, they obtained the contract for its publicatinon. It soon developed into the largest job ever handled in a job establishment in this city.

The Gazette was purchased by W.C.Ball, J. Dickerson and C. F. Roderus. Shortly after the purchase, the sole ownership was assumed by William C. and S. F. Ball.

In 1875, there was a lockout of the union printers employed on the paper — Harry Cassel, Wilson Harper, Charles Goodwin, Charles Weaver, Miss Carter and C. F. Roderus. A large number of school children of both sexes took their places.

After a time the employees of the Express struck against a reduction of wages and the union lapsed until 1882.

Several weekly papers made their appearance about that time—the Saturday Evening Ledger, by J. B. Edmunds, Sid B. Terry and C. F. Roderus; the Courier, by Hardisty; and the Argo, by Ed Seldomridge.

Edmunds died before the Ledger was fairly launched, and his interest passed to C. H. Goodwin. The interest of Roderus went to S. B. Terry.

After two or three years, the paper was discontinued and Goodwin became connected with George Hebb in a job printing business. The other two weeklies stopped publication.

In the meantime, the Saturday Evening Mail had passed into the hands of P. S. Westfall and flourished until his death, when it became the property of A. C. Duddleston and Fred Peipenbrink, but was discontinued when Duddleston was elected city clerk.

The Express was taken over by Major Smith and later by George M. Allen.

The Typographical Union was revived in 1882 and active warfare was waged on the non-union Gazette, but owing to the fact that it was the only evening paper in the city and lack of organization among the trades, it continued to flourish for nearly 20 years.

During that time, several labor papers were issued at intervals— the Labor Lance, one by Otto Wurtzebach, and another by Ed Evinger.

Later W. H. Terrill and J. L. Edmunds filled "long felt wants" in that field. A. I. Meyer published the Terre Haute Clarion.

Frank Seamon published a 10-cent per week evening daily for a time . The Express also issued an evening edition for a period. Dick Morgan and an associate launched the Evening Courier.

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Finally, after the rapid development of the coal fields and consequent organization of the miners, the establishment of the glass works, the rolling mills and a more general organization of the different trades, through the efforts of Al Murphy, Jacob Truinett, O. S. McNabb and others, the Tribune was established and the Gazette began to lose ground.

With assistance from the International Union, the local group flourished. The Tribune was purchased by J. S. Barcus and equipped as a modern, up-to-date plant offering a much better paper than the Gazette, and the dissolution of the latter was rapid.

Failing to sell the office, the paper finally suspended the Associated Press franchise and what was left of the good will was taken over by the Tribune.

The Express passed into the hands of Indianapolis capitalists, the name changed to Star, re-equipped throughout and made an up-to-date paper.

Mr. Roderus stated that only three newspapermen, P. S. Westfall, Dick Moore and Ernest Langen accumulated even a modest fortune during the 52 years between 1861 and 1913.

The Messrs. Ball were credited with emerging from the Gazette wreckage with a snug fortune. The city grew in that time from 10,000 to 70,000 inhabitants.

Heavyweights Judged In Daily Express Feature

TERRE HAUTE STAR By DOROTHy J. CLARK

Nearly a cenutry ago the Terre Haute Daily Express carried an unusual story entitled "Antipodes — Who Are our Heavyweights and Who Are Not."

According to the editor, "the biggest man in town is Col. T. B. Snapp, of the 9th St. planing mill. He is 6 feet high, well proportioned and weighs 264 pounds. He was born in Vincennes in 1828, but has been a citizen of Terre Haute most of his life."

In contrast to Col. Snapp, the editor reported that "the smallest man in the city is Wesley Weathers, of Wright's photograph gallery. He is 3 feet and 7 inches high, weighs 74 pounds, and is 35 years of age. He was born in Marshall, Ill., and has spent a part of his life at Evansville, where he was in the same business. His smallness of stature is a matter of some wonder to strangers, who stare at him rudely on the streets."

It seems Mr. Weathers grew very little until he was 14 years of age, and was an object of great wonder to his neighbors.

The Express editor explained his choice of Col. Snapp as the heaviest man in the city because he resided within its corporate boundary. But if a man who spent most of his time in town, though his home was outside the city, could be considered in the competition, Col. Snapp would have been second best.

DOROTHY J. CLARK

"That man is Major Wm. McQuilken, of Sugar Creek township where he owns a large farm. Mr. McQuilken is five feet and eleven inches high, is 58 years old, and weighs 307 pounds. He was born in Cincinnati, but came here with his parents when he was but two years old, and has hence been a resident of the county for 56 years."

"He is probably the only man living who can say he saw the old court house rise and fall; for besides seeing it gradually rise many years ago, he happened to be standing on one corner of Granger Square when it fell (1870)."

"Mr. McQuilken is a man of very unusual strength, and 20 years ago there were few who could stand up and wrestle with him, and even now, though he is an old man, it is said of him that he can stand with his hands in his pockets and with merely a sweep with one foot can knock the legs from under a common man and whirl him over."

"With his jolly round face and low hat most persons do not suppose that he is so tall; but really he lacks only an inch of being, like 'My Massa' in the jubilee song, 'six feet one way, three feet 'tother an' he way three hundred poun'."

There were other large men in Terre Haute in 1875. The banker, Hon. Patrick Shannon, and Frank Miller, of Robinson's notion store, weighed nearly as much as Snapp and McQuilken.

Two Hundred Pounds

Other 200 pounders listed were: Col. Buntin, Col. Cookerly, Col. Hudson, Col. Dowling, Hon. B. W. Hanna, Wm. Tuell, Wm. Mack, Hon. D. W. Voorhees, Wm Ball, Geo. W. Leek, John Matlock, Wm. Hawkins, J.S. Jordan, Sheriff Carico, Ben Regan, Herman Imbery, Chris Reichart, A. L. Crawford, R. S. Cox, Richard Houseman, W. S. Clift, Wm. Barrick, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Read, W. R. Hunter, P. Leonard, W. Naylor, C H. Rottman, L. Seeburger and Jerry Voris.

The editor suggested that readers who knew of other two hundred pounders should so notify him. There was an immediate reaction to the EXPRESS story. The article caused much gossip and discussion. Several men were seen going to the depot or feed store to get weighed and there seemed to be much quarreling as to who weighed how much.

Word came in to the newspaper that a Mr. Beauchamp of Sugar Creek township weighed 343 pounds. His wife weighed 277, and their 12-year-old son tipped the scales at 240.

A few days later the Express reported that Mr. Shannon, a Terre Haute citizen, stepped on the scales, weighed in at 275, and was therefore proclaimed the heaviest resident of this city, outweighing Col. Snapp by eleven pounds.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Newspapers of 100 years ago still inform and entertain

(TH)

Community Affairs File

Ts NOV 26 1978

Back in 1876, local residents could buy a copy of the Terre Haute Evening Gazette for a nickel, and somehow the news seemed to be more entertaining then than now. Even the advertisements showed more imagination than modern television commercials.

For instance, "Joe, the great half-price clothier at the Boss Clothing House" offered the very latest patterns in plaid suits from $5.75 to $22.50 (there's a laugh right there!)

According to the ad, "Leaders are few, followers many...There are some Old Fogies in the trade that are of no more use to the Purchasing Community than a boiled carrot hung in a boot-leg".

Ernst Seeger, proprietor of the Centennial Barber Shop at the southeast corner of 5th and Main, downstairs, offered: "good barbers and an attentive boot black and brush boy. Leaches kept constantly on hand and either applied or sold to the medical profession."

On Saturday morning, a large, half-starved dog saw some of the fur goods displayed in front of Mr. Riddle's variety store on Main street, and made a leap seizing a long band of fine fur trimming and ran down the street. The band unwound and entangled the dog until the dog was caught and the damaged goods rescued.

Jules Houriet, a local jeweler, also made a Swiss Ague Cure which became very popular. Several hundred gallons were bottled and shipped off, a great deal going to Illinois. Due to its high alcoholic content, the product became very popular and had "a very extensive patronage."

One Saturday night in November, 1876, John Craven of Bagdad, an employee of the South Rolling Mill, got into a fight with Mike Mohan, Peter Devenna and "Shorty" Foley. It seems he was "badly mashed up", so he went home and loaded a shotgun and "prepared to ambuscade his enemies."

When they came along, he fired away. The shot sprinkled itself pretty well in the whole crowd. Foley was the most hurt, receiving an overdose of shot in the thigh. Craven was arrested, and afterward released on bail.

Considerable excitement was caused at the St. Clair Hotel on a Sunday morning when it was discovered that all the silverware had been stolen from the box on a serving table in the dining room.

According to the newspaper headline, "Jimmy Jerkers had visited the St.Clair and guests were in danger of resorting to chop sticks."

Mr. Hughes, proprietor, was obliged to call a hardware man and order some new cutlery. The thieves had made entrance by breaking a door glass and drawing the bolt. It was suspected as being an inside job.

Other thefts at the same time included a boat belonging to Mr. McCarthy and Luther G. Hager's pants, bridle and other small articles.

Also in the news was the strange balloon seen passing over the city. It lodged in a tree on Joseph Gilbert's farm east of town. The tree was cut down and the balloon secured. It was torn, of course, made of paper, about ten feet long and six feet through.

Mr. Gilbert examined it closely for marks indicating ownership but could find no identification. The newspaper had no knowledge of any balloons being sent up near Terre Haute, so it was assumed it had come from quite a distance.

Late in November, 1876, the Wabash river was rising rapidly. Thirteenth Street was being repaired, but still impassable, and the local street cars were well patronized.

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The police were asked to "please see about those barrels piled up on the inside and outside of the sidewalk on Main Street, leaving only a narrow aisle full of holes for pedestrians."

Mr. Schultz, the south-end baker, was planning to occupy the building on Main street opposite Dickhout's where Kramer, the harness man, kept store.

The new double-store building of Joseph S. Jenckes on South Fourth street was being plastered and would be ready for occupancy soon.

Chapple and Dobbs had purchased the Kern Mill north of the city on the Lafayette Road and planned "to make the best of flour in the market." They ran a wagon and would deliver flour in the city.

Jackson and Auble, house painters, had removed their shops to the basement under the Globe Printing Office on 6th street opposite the post office, "where they would be glad to see their old friends and customers."

Lucille Western, conceded to be the greatest actress on the stage in 1876, was appearing at the Opera House. Mr. and Mrs. Pellissier were entertaining in comedy matinees at Turner Hall following a "forenoon lunch of delicacies with Vienna coffee and pineapple punch to the ladies and gentlemen."

Ryce's dry goods store was pleased with its newly installed gas burners furnishing 40 percent more illumination for Saturday night shoppers. Mr. Hunley, an employee, took in change a five-cent coin dated 1728.

Seven occupants of the "Hotel de Tramp" (workhouse) enjoyed its luxurious comforts and broke stone six hours for a dinner.

Theodore Hulman, the bee-raiser near the hospital, had been very successful during the summer of 1876 and had immense quantities of honey to sell, along with an Alderney calf.

Printed words remain to please — or haunt

Historically Speaking

Community Affairs File

By Dorothy Clark TS SEP 9 1979

Whether or not future generations see fit to look back and write of the absurdities of today's newspapers, it requires no stretch of the imagination to imagine some of the satirical things that might be said.

Realizing that we may be the butt of humor a century or so in the future, it's still fun to read the press of bygone years and enjoy the contrast between then and now.

A copy of the Wabash Courier, one of Terre Haute's early newspapers, dated Sept. 13, 1832, proved that it carried out its dedication: "A stream of many tides against the foes of the people," by launching a vicious attack against President Andrew Jackson for an attempt "to subject all action of the government to his will."

Fearless Journal

That it was a fearless journal in those days of unrestrained appetites is evidenced by the leading front page article. A reprint from the Sangamon Journal, the article consists of a harangue delivered by one Irish pastor of a Methodist church in Hartford, Conn., against "distilled death and liquid damnation."

Ironically, the 147-year-old newspaper carried advertisements advocating non-temperance.

On the back page, an advertisement stated that "30 barrels of good rectified whiskey just received and for sale by L.H. and J.Scott."

In another column, the same firm lists, along with grocery articles, "40 casks Jamaica, St.Croix, and New England rum; 50 barrels brandy and gin, 85 casks Malaga, Teneriffe, sherry, Madeira and Canary wines; 30 boxes Muscatel and assorted claret wines."

W.C. and D.Linton, the largest advertisers in the paper, sold "staple goods, hardware and groceries" at Second Street and Wabash Avenue. They listed one assortment of goods as "just received, per Steamer Rambler."

Regarding river traffic, several lines announced that the "Ohio river has lately risen 14 feet and is now in good boating order."

Political Slump

Other than the vitriolic attack against President Jackson on the front page, numerous political stories of a general nature, and a small notice on the back page, there is nothing to indicate that there was a presidential election coming up in two months. The back page merely listed the names of the electors and the candidates for president and vice president.

National news is always of interest, but in reading the newspapers of former years, it's the smaller items and ads that show the contrast between now and 147 years ago.

For instance, under the caption "Five Dollars Reward", there's this: "Ran away from the subscriber, on Monday, the sixth day of August, an indentured apprentice by the name of Charles Tankersley. Said boy is between 12 and 13 years of age, has a scar on his nose, occasioned by a kick from a horse; wore away a pair of Nankeen pantaloons, other dress not recollected. It is believed that he was induced to go away by the evil advice of some malicious person. All persons are forbidden to trust or harbor said boy, under penalty of the law; and the above reward will be given for his return. (signed) W.A.Gans."

General Infor File

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Told Like It Was

In those days when the Courier flourished, they had a different way of saying things as is shown in the notice in which John L. Monett states that "Whereas my wife, Mary, without any just cause or provocation, has left my board, and taken her bed away with her, this is, therefore, to forewarn all persons from harboring or trusting her on my account, as I will not pay any debts of her contracting."

Land sales flourished in 1832, and the Courier carried the interesting notice of the sale of 222,000 acres of Wabash & Erie Canal lands at Fort Wayne.

Payment for the lands was allowed over a period of 15 years with one-fourth of the purchase price to be paid in cash. Divided into three classes, the land was priced at $3.50, $2.50 and $1.50 per acre. And the same land now sells for the number of hundreds that it formerly brought dollars!

Another notice signed by William Polke as commissioner at Vincennes, Ind., stated: "The undersigned, Commissioner of the Michigan Road, will, at the town of Logansport, on Monday, the 15th of October, commence the sale of the Michigan Road lands in the state of Indiana to the highest bidder, in tracts, as the U.S. lands are sold."

Indian Troubles

"For a full description of these lands," the notice continued, "see the advertisement of the late sales at South Bend, on the fourth of June last past. Owing to the alarm on account of the Indian War at such time much valuable land was not examined, and but few persons attended the sales; and since then both the Michigan Road and the Wabash & Erie Canal have been put under contract, and the works are progressing. Those who wish choice selections in that interesting part of Indiana will do well to examine and attend the sales. None need stop on account of the rumors of the Indian War, as there is not the remotest problem of danger in that section of the country."

In another section of the old paper, there is reprinted a letter originally appearing in the "American Farmer" which deals with the cure of "blind staggers" by filling the ear of the affected horse with onions or garlic or putting on a poultice of the second bark of a black walnut tree.

Announcement was made of a meeting of the Terre Haute Jockey Club which made arrangements for a three-day race meet starting Oct. 3. Purses for the events ranged between $20 and $80.

Every line of the old newspaper carries a reminder that 147 years have brought many changes — the same conclusion that may be reached in 2126 when someone resurrects a copy of today's Terre Haute Tribune-Star.

REFUGEE RELIEF

President Eisenhower signed the Refugee Relief Act on Aug. 7, 1953, allowing 214,000 aliens to be admitted to the United States outside the regular quotas.

Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

News from 1881

Clark, Dorothy +
~~History (PW)~~

Garfield death not only story

T s DEC 0 8 1985

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

Community Affairs File

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Black-bordered newspapers announced the tragic death of President James A. Garfield in September 1881. Bells tolled, buildings were draped in black crepe and gun salutes were fired in his memory.

People gathered to talk about the sad news. Others read their newspapers, then packed them away in a trunk in the attic and forgot about them.

But there was other news that date.

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Also on the front page sharing the rehash of the Garfield assassination was the murder of John Hunt, an old farmer in Brown County, Ind.

He was seen leaving a funeral with two men, John Brownfield and Ben Mathis. A neighbor saw them pass his house and reported they were chatting in a friendly manner. A short time later, Brownfield and Mathis walked back past the neighbor's house, but Hunt wasn't with them.

They were acting suspiciously, so he investigated and found Hunt's mutilated body. He had been robbed. The murderers were soon caged. Justice was swift in 1881.

☆ ☆ ☆

A new bakery had just opened at 807 Poplar St. by Max Meinhold, a member of the Amalgamated Union. He offered to deliver fresh bread, cakes and pies anyplace in the city.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Help Wanted columns were on page one in 1881. The newspaper office needed a "woman to do some scrubbing."

☆ ☆ ☆

The Exchange Hotel, 10th and Chestnut Streets, offered to pay $16 a month for a cook. They also needed "three girls for dining room and other purposes."

☆ ☆ ☆

J. H. Blake, 225 Ohio St., needed to hire a woman to cook, wash and iron. He also needed "a man to milk and make himself useful."

☆ ☆ ☆

Joseph W. Thorpe of Terre Haute wanted to sell his "nice little farm at a big bargain. I have the Texas fever badly and want to sell out ... contains 60 acres located half a mile south of the city on the National Road ... under good cultivation, five-room frame house, good well and nice little orchard of 30 trees, title perfect, 30 acres in wheat."

☆ ☆ ☆

Fred A. Ross, one-time mayor of the city, wanted to sell cheap a property on the corner of Second and Vine Streets, with stable, woodshed, well, cistern and cellar.

☆ ☆ ☆

Theodore Hulman or Marcus Schoemehl, 314½ Ohio St., wanted to rent "two desirable store rooms on the south side of Ohio between Third and Fourth Streets."

☆ ☆ ☆

The Vandalia Railroad, Logansport Division, was selling tickets for the Soldiers' Reunion at Lafayette for $2.70 round trip, two round trips each day.

☆ ☆ ☆

In the City and County column, readers learned that Sandford was to be incorporated; the Vigo County Temperance Union was $15 in debt; and there were 25 paupers on the Clay County poor farm.

☆ ☆ ☆

William Lintz of the Nail Works was smiling because he had a new 10-pound baby boy. We hope his wife was still smiling. Lafayette Byard, who worked in the cooper shop at the Nail Works, had a new 8-pound baby girl.

☆ ☆ ☆

Newspaper reporter Jack Joice was off duty for the week because he was on a walking trip to Merom, Ind.

☆ ☆ ☆

To show that history does repeat itself, an item stated that Brazil folks were having a little trouble in their schools. Whether or not the city superintendent would be re-employed was the cause of the trouble.

☆ ☆ ☆

James Nichols who owned the grocery on the corner of First and Swan Streets built an addition to his store.

☆ ☆ ☆

A mechanic who was repairing the steeple of the Congregational Church at the corner of Sixth and Cherry Streets, dropped some fire from the firepot onto the roof and caused some excitement. The fire department was called, but he had managed to get the accident under control before they were needed.

☆ ☆ ☆

Editorials in 1881 dealt with homey problems instead of world politics. The editor directed the attention of the "Sanitary Force" to the alley between Fourth and Fifth, running from Walnut to Poplar Streets.

"It is in a very bad condition," he said. "Dead rats, piles of manure, stacks of wood, numbers of wagons, etc., make it a filled up affair, and no wonder the citizens in that vicinity are complaining."

☆ ☆ ☆

The obituary of George H. Hager appeared on page one. The son of the late Jacob H. and Carry Ross Hager, the 20-year-old died at the residence of his uncle, Luther G. Hager. Funeral services were to be held at St. Stephen's Church.

☆ ☆ ☆

A long rambling account of a happening the previous Saturday evening at the fairgrounds took up quite a bit of space. At first the policeman was blamed, but when the facts were all in, it was learned he was correct in using his billy club on the wrong-doer. Officer Wheatfill reported he was on duty keeping the race track clear of unsavory persons when Oscar Martin appeared.

He was ordered off, but refused profanely to obey, so force was used, and Oscar started swinging and Wheatfill hit him with his billy club, etc. Eye-witnesses upheld the policeman in doing his duty and defending himself. At least he didn't kill the man.

☆ ☆ ☆

Like I always say, nothing new in town, just different people doing it.

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Clark, Dorothy ~~(History)~~

Community Affairs File

world was ... in 1873

T s JAN 2 7 1985

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And that's the way the

The Terre Haute Express Weekly began its 32nd year of publication in 1873. The editor believed in printing all the news and then a little extra, something to make subscribers laugh. There were no "funny" pages or comics in those days.

Captioned "How He Handled the Flail," one story told about a young man from an eastern city who had been visiting rural friends in this vicinity. After watching a farmer thresh out a flooring of oats one morning, he asked and received permission to swing the flail a few minutes. He assured the farmer that he was perfectly familiar with the act of threshing.

"Expectorating upon his hands," wrote the editor, "the young man went at the oats, but at the first pass knocked the horn off a new milch cow that was leisurely chewing her cud in a neighboring stall. The second swing almost caved in the head of the farmer, who thought he was safe enough as long as he roosted on top of the fanning mill in the end of the barn.

Historically speaking

Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

"Without discovering the havoc he was making, the city arrival kept at his labors. The third blow fell upon the oats. The fourth killed a setting hen in the manger nearby. The fifth pass of the deadly weapon was the best of all, for it came around the young man boomerang fashion, and taking him under the jaw, knocked him down and thus put a stop to the work of slaughter."

According to the editor, "The mere fact that the city thresher returned to consciousness an hour before the farmer did, allowed the former to get several miles out of town before his efforts at threshing oats were discovered by his neighbors."

In other news, it was reported that Capt. William Earle, the oldest born Terre Hautean, was spending the winter of 1873 with his family at South Abington, Maine.

Other articles of winter humor, and I quote, stated "no sunstrokes yesterday ... where are the corner roosters now? This is no time for nankeen pantaloons ... the breezes are not spice-laden ... many Terre Haute ears were frozen by the zephyrs of last evening."

Other cold weather happenings included reports of two panthers prowling around McQuilkin's three miles west of town. A large party of men devoted Sunday unsuccessfully to panther hunting in Sugar Creek township. It should be noted that the panthers of 1873 are the wildcats of modern times, both hopefully not roaming the West Terre Haute area.

Sad reading was the news of the awful ravages of spotted fever (probably smallpox) in Crawford County, Ill.

With tongue in cheek, the editor reported the sleigh bells in Terre Haute were the size of school bells because of the great noise they made. A sleigh and a bread wagon had collided on North Fourth Street and "both went to splinters."

An eastern gentleman visiting Terre Haute was heard to remark about the horns of after dark sleighing parties. "It's a queer time to sell fish," he said. "We have 'em sold in the morning at Bawston."

Signs of spring were appearing, however, and drummers (salesmen) were selling croquet sets, etc. And yet another steamboat sank in the Wabash river.

May 8, 1873, it was reported that Architect Charles Eppinghousen had completed plans for the new residence of William Warren to be built on the northwest corner of

Vigo County Public Library

Sixth and Deming streets. Classed as "American" style of architecture, the cost estimate was $25,000.

The home was planned as a two-story with basement, 40 by 48 feet, with the rear building 28 by 38 feet. A tower rising from the center of the front would contain a vestibule on the first floor, a dressing room on the second floor, and another room and gallery on top of that.

During the Scottish games at the Fairgrounds on the 4th of July, Robert Andrews received the first prize for vaulting 6 feet, 4 inches, the highest vault ever made in the United States.

The furor over the new paint on Terre Haute's fire hydrants was explained by the item that stated, "And now the little fat green fire plugs begin to look familiar."

Summer time was hot and dusty in the city. Daily sales of the Terre Haute Ice Co. averaged 18,000 pounds. It took 60 loads of the large wagon tanks to keep the dust down on Main Street each day.

Some unusual names noted on Wabash river barges included Logger-head, Dead-head, Dead-beat, Black Warrior, Raven and Old Dad.

In August 1873, it was reported that "the laziest man in the world lives at Terre Haute. He loafs around the artesian well and hires a small boy to hold his nose while he drinks the water."

Also in that month, John McKenzie built a stone wall costing $2,000 at the Col. Hudson's residence. He built well, because this wall still encloses the property of the Woman's Department Club at the southwest corner of Sixth and Oak streets.

Mr. Fosbrook, a veteran of the War of 1812 who lived on North Eighth Street, invented a combination artificial leg which was patented in 1873.

The city was growing because a street extension notice was advertised. Eighth Street was to be extended north from Lafayette Street to Scott Street (now Eighth Avenue). The width was specified as 65 feet.

Community Affairs File
NEWSPAPERS - TH - Clark, Dorothy
NOV 2 0 1983

Newspapers capture history

Historically speaking

By Dorothy J. Clark

Newspapers in the 1860 era are hard to come by in Terre Haute. For some reason the public library's files show very few copies of the Civil War dates, and unless someone comes across one buried away in a trunk in the attic, much of the information they contained remains a secret.

Reading through my copy of the Terre Haute Saturday Evening Gazette printed Nov. 20, 1869, it was learned that the famous Peake family of singers and bell ringers were going to appear at Dowling Hall. The doors opened at 7 p.m., and the concert began at 8 p.m. Tickets were 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children.

Billed as the largest troupe of bell ringers in the world, they had imported since their last visit to Terre Haute a new set of 120 silver table bells as well as a new and elegant staff of 36 silver bells. The group included singers, violinists, harpists, and a silver cornet band playing the popular airs of the day and new character songs.

The advertisements tiell not only the business firms and stores in town but their products, what the people of 1869 were wearing, using, and thinking about. If readers were having difficulty with the newspaper's fine print, they could buy spectacles from S. R. Freeman's jewelry store in the National Hotel block, Sixth and Main streets.

The Vigo Woolen Mills offered all wool blankets, fine white and plaid flannels and twill, all kinds of jeans cloth, heavy double warp jeans, heavy fulled cloth, double and twist casimeres, tweeds, stocking yarn, etc. S. S. Kennedy, the owner, guaranteed no shoddy went into making their products and all the colors were warranted.

R. L. Ball and Henderson both offered new style wood cook stoves. The illustration showed a little stove very similar to the one in the kitchen of the Paul Dresser Birthplace museum, First and Farrington streets.

The New York Dry Goods Store was slated to open at No. 73 Main St. John Armstrong was the stencil cutter on Third Street, second door from Main. He also made and repaired guns and pistols to order.

T. C. Buntin was the proprietor of the Terre Haute House, Seventh and Main, in 1869. At the same place, Turner & Buntin also operated a wholesale and retail store selling all kinds of country produce, family groceries, flour, feed, hay, oats, etc., all delivered free of charge in the city.

James H. Turner, agent for the C.C.C. & I. Railway (late Bellefontaine) had moved his office to the store. He was the man to see if area farmers wanted to ship produce to eastern cities and New England towns.

Isaac Ball, undertaker, was located at Third and Cherry streets in 1869. His box ad showed the latest style in handmade coffins.

Singer Sewing Machines were on sale at 83 Main St. Herz & Arnold's Skirt Factory & Fancy Bazaar was located at 89 Main. In 1869 this address was between Third and Fourth streets. This confuses present-day researchers no end.

Tuell, Ripley & Deming, Fifth and Main, sold shawls, cloaks, hosiery, ladies knit underwear, kid gloves, llama tassels, furs, and a complete line of white and mourning goods. At 100 Main St., A. H. Dooley sold school books and novels, slates, slate pencils, ink and newspapers and magazines received daily.

The Palace of Music, 48 Ohio St., opposite the old court house (now Memorial Hall), offered Steck, Knabe and Chickering pianos and melodeons, parlor and church organs, sheet music, instruction books, and every variety of small musical instruments. They had pianos for rent and did repair work.

Barr, Gulick & Berry, druggists and chemists, were advertising "Barr's Pectoral Elixir" for all those in the Wabash Valley suffering from coughs, colds, croup, asthma and bronchitis. Several testimonials were included attesting to the pleasant taste and general good results of its use.

J. E. Voorhees had opened a new store on Ohio between Fourth and Fifth, formerly the business of C. N. Demorest. He sold flour, feed, fruit, poultry, fresh vegetables, fresh meats and country produce.

W. H. Isaacs had opened the Peoples Boot & Shoe Store, 15 S. Fourth St., one door south of Henderson's Tin & Stove Shop. He advertised that he "sold cheap for cash only" all ladies' and gentlemen's foot wear made to order. He also repaired shoes.

S. D. Shields, dentist, whose office was located at 119 Main over W. H. Sage's Confectionery, stated in his box ad that he could guarantee "teeth positively extracted without pain."

In a column dedicated to "City News," it was reported that South Seventh Street was being graded, graveled and gassed (?). Also, that one local business shipped 173 barrels of hickory nuts last week. A cold winter was forecast because of the thickness of the cornhusks.

The rear of George Rugan's home near the Gas Works was destroyed by fire. There was a movement on foot to purchase the property at Third and Walnut back of the Fourth Street Market to extend the market house to Third Street.

Sad and tragic news appeared in the post-Civil War news. Frederick Gertsenger, a German, affected by delirium tremens, jumped from the third floor of the Cincinnati House (local hotel) fracturing his ribs, etc. The murder trial of John Stevens ended in his guilty verdict. He was convicted of killing John Reeves in April, 1868. Col. Richard W. Thompson was the prosecutor, and Col. William McLean, defense attorney. The jury took 45 minutes to decide murder in the first degree until death penalty.

William Marvin Preston, son of Nathaniel Preston, was appointed assistant paymaster in the U. S. Navy. The advertisement of John H. Sykes, wholesale and retail dealer in hats, caps, furs and straw goods, 113 Main St., stated that he had established his business in 1852.

There were fewer people in Terre Haute in 1869, so the list of deaths and marriages was not long. Births were not listed unless a cow gave birth to a two-headed calf or some other such freak.

The deaths reported were those of David St. John, aged 92, and 20-year-old William H. Coltrin, son of John M. and Minerva Coltrin, who died of consumption in Lost Creek Township.

Three couples were married in the immediate area. They were Louis Otto Baganz and Louisa C. Combs on Nov. 17; James W. Fagan of Southern Kansas and Dorcas J. Hall, Vigo County, on Nov. 15; and Scott Shoaf and Maggie Milan on Nov. 9.

The four-page, wide-columned newspaper was labeled Volume I, No. 25, so had not been in publication too long, possibly about six months. As was the custom of the time, most of the space was devoted to national and world news, texts of speeches, and hundreds of small advertisements. They were well read in those days, and discussed in detail by an enlightened public.

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Clark, D. + Newspapers (1983)

Community Affairs File

Newspaper describes life in 1861

Historically speaking

By Dorothy J. Clark

JUL 31 1983

The charming custom of carefully preserving a copy of the newspaper printed on the day a child is born and presenting it to him or her upon reaching adulthood is back in fashion again. Barring some unforeseen happening of fire, flood or mice in the attic, this newspaper can be taken from a drawer, trunk or other family hiding place and presented to the birthday child.

From this newspaper published on the day of his birth, he can easily see what kind of world he was born into, he can marvel at the progress (or lack of) in his hometown, laugh at the changes in women's fashions and prices of groceries and other household products.

Such a newspaper as I have described was presented to Frank C. Schmitt, local railroader. This copy of the Daily Wabash Express was printed in Terre Haute Aug. 2, 1861, the day of his birth.

What better way to learn about what Terre Haute was like 122 years ago than to scan this newspaper? It was published every morning except Sunday in Modesitt's Building, No. 65 Wabash St. There was also The Weekly Express published every Wednesday. The daily cost five dollars a year and was "deliverable to city subscribers at ten cents per week, single copies, five cents."

Charles Cruft, the proprietor, set out his rates for advertising. Legal advertisements cost 50 cents per square inch each insertion. For inserting notices "of all Orders, Societies or Associations," a charge of 25 cents was made for eight lines. Death announcements were free, but when a funeral notice was attached, it cost one dollar. Candidates for public office were charged two dollars for each name in the daily.

The arrival and departure times of the Mails at the local post office were announced by J. O. Jones, postmaster. These included daily mails to and from north, south, east and west, and once a week mails to and from Merom, Worthington, Bowling Green and Portland.

The railroad time table listed seven trains in and out of Terre Haute in 1861. They were operated by the Terre Haute & Richmond, Alton & St. Louis, the Evansville & Crawfordsville, and the Rockville Extension.

M. S. Wasson, agent for the American Express Co., located at the northeast corner of Fourth and Ohio streets, announced a reduction in rates charged for letters sent via Pony Express. Formerly two dollars for letters weighing a half ounce or under, plus another two dollars for each additional half ounce, the new rate was to be only one dollar. From Terre Haute the letters and telegraphs were forwarded to connect with the Pony Express at St. Joseph, Mo., and ten days later arrived in San Francisco, Calif.

The most interesting item in this 1861 newspaper concerned the Civil War. The recruiting notice stated: "Wanted for the U.S. Army — able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 35 years. Pay from $11 to $21 per month, with rations and quarters, to commence at once. $2 will be paid to any citizen who shall procure and present to the Recruiting Officer an acceptable recruit."

Interested persons were to apply for further information at the "rendezvous in Terre Haute on the west side of the square to Captain Alfred L. Hough."

Another notice on the same subject appeared in the same column. "Volunteers are wanted to join a company to fill up the ten new regiments just called by the Governor." In addition to the usual inducements, this announcement specified "terms of enlistment were for three years or the duration of the war, unless sooner discharged, and at the end of which the soldiers will receive a bounty of $100 in gold and 160 acres of land."

This recruiting office was located in Linton's Block, corner of Market, (now Third) and Wabash. E. B. Allen, auditor of Vigo County, and R. S. Cox Jr. vouched for John S. Welch who would take command of this proposed company.

The war news was divided into "Telegraphic News," dispatched by Western Union lines, and "Night Dispatches." First-hand accounts of how the war was progressing were written by W. R. McKeen, W. B. Tuell, J. M. Hager and W. H. Buckingham, prominent local citizems of 1861 who had recently visited Washington and New York City.

This party actually drove out from Washington in a horse and buggy to see the battles of Manassas, Bull's Run and Centerville. This was the fashionable thing to do in those early days of the Civil War.

Returning to Washington, they became lost and were stopped by a sentry's musket. Having neither a pass nor countersign, they were taken before the Provost Marshal, who referred their case to General Runyan, who gave them a pass.

On the trip home to Terre Haute the party "stopped off at Bristol, and spent a very pleasant day with the our late fellow citizen, Lucius H. Scott, Esq., and his amiable lady. They have a delightful residence on the bank of the Delaware, and are looking younger than they did when they were in Terre Haute in 1854."

This little four-page newspaper carried very little local news. Over half the space was filled with advertisements, mainly patent medicines guaranteed to cure any and every malady known to man and beast.

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Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ts DEC 7 1980

Firecracker Christmas, F& AM, St. John's Day, City Hotel, grave lot sales and town hearse reviewed

The 1847 celebration of St. John's Day by the local Masonic Lodge No.19 began with installaion of officers. They included Dayton Topping, W.M.; Albert Lange, S.W.; Squire Holmes, J.W.; Samuel Hager, treasurer; William K. Edwards, secretary; Robert Wharry, S.D.; Harris R. Smith, J.D., and Joseph East, tyler.

Following the installation ceremonies conducted by James S. Freeman, G.M., the lodge members assembled at Bro. Louis Levy's City Hotel for a dinner party.

According to the Wabash Express, they "partook of a very richly prepared and excellent supper, at which many ladies were present and gentlemen as invited guests, all of whom did ample justice to the tempting viands before them."

Many toasts were proposed to St. John the Evangelist, Free Masonry, George Washington, Alfred the Great, Women, Robert Burns, Friendship, and the host Mr. Levy.

The Terre Haute Band entertained with appropriate musical selections for each toast. Some 50 to 60 ladies and gentlemen enjoyed the program until 11 p.m.

Host Complemented

The host was highly complemented for taking such pains "to please those who sat at his table on St. John's Day." The City Hotel had only recently been leased by Louis Levy, who had formerly been employed at the National Hotel. His advertisement complete with picture stated that the City Hotel was located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square on Market Street (now Third Street).

He had built on a new addition, bought new furniture and bedding, improved and enlarged the stables. Boarders were accomodated by the week, month or year, and all the stages called at the City Hotel for passengers.

Over a century ago the newspaper weather reports dealt with the actual weather at press time, not what it might be. This issue of the 1847 newspaper stated "we still have snow on the ground and pretty good sleighing with an appearance however of more falling weather — whether snow or rain we can't say."

And that was St. John's Day 133 years aogo.

What else was going on in Terre Haute in 1847? According to the treasurer's annual report at the Common Council meeting, receipts were listed in detail. They included $15 from the use of the town hearse; $300 for grocery licenses; $42.11 in fines; $96 from market house stalls; $45 for shows and exhibitions; $11.45 from sale of sundries; $180.55 from sale of graveyard lots; $27.50 from rent of the Town Hall; $128.65 collected for the school fund, a total increase of over a thousand dollars from 1846 to 1847 in school funds.

This school fund was loaned out in amounts under $100 at seven, eight and ten percent interest. The Sexton reported burials of four adults and five children during the month of December, 1847.

New Year's eve was eventful that year. It seems that boys threw firecrackers under the feet of the horses of the Northern Stage causing runaways. In fact, firecrackers were let off all night.

Readers must remember that the early settlers from the southern states were accustomed to celebrate Christmas with firecrackers, and the leftovers were still in use on New Year's eve.

Around the courthouse square, window blinds were torn from their hangings and broken. Most of the downspouts and water pipes that could be reached were torn from walls, broken or carried away by destructive vandals.

The newspaper editor had much to say about these events, and the Town Council offered a reward of $20 "for the apprehension and conviction of the depradators who injured business houses on New Year's eve."

Masonry goes back in its history in Terre Haute to the year 1819. This first local Lodge No. 19 flourished, and its membership included nearly

(over)

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every leader in the community. It ceased to function from 1832 to 1845, but was revived when ten Master Masons met and petitioned the Grand Lodge.

Signing that petition were Elijah Tillotson, James S. Freeman, Thomas Dowling, David Bell, Macom McFadden, William Naylor, Samuel McQuilkin, Asa Dille, Samuel Hager and Louis Levy.

From the steady growth of No.15 was created Social Lodge No. 86 and Humboldt Lodge No. 42. There are over 4,000 Masons affiliated with the six lodges of Terre Haute at the present time — William Penn, Euclid 573 and West Terre Haute 687 were created later.

reviewed

Bright, newsy, cheap, cheerful efforts

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

Ts NOV 16 1980

As has been stated before, newspapers came and went in Terre Haute for a variety of reasons. One lasted only six weeks, but accomplished its purpose. The first issue of the Terre Haute Daily News was published Feb. 19, 1880, and came off the press at 3:30 p.m. It cost three cents, or ten cents by the week.

Frank Seaman, a Civil War veteran and former foreman of printers at the Globe Printing firm, was the editor. His brother-in-law, William Lewis, was the business manager of Seaman, Lewis & Co., publishers, in an office located at 501½ Ohio, corner of Fifth and Wabash, over the Globe Printing Office.

As proposed in its first issue, "its first object was to furnish the people of Terre Haute every afternoon all the local happenings of the city, given in as concise and comprehensive manner as possible...a summary of what is going on in the business, political, literary and religious world, and comment thereon with freedom, not pledged to fight any man's fight, or to do any clique's bidding."

Described as a business venture, Seaman & Lewis believed there was room in the city for such a paper, and they vowed to make it "bright and newsy, cheap and cheerful."

Editor Seaman came to Terre Haute in 1869 from Covington, Ind., where he printed the Journal for 11 years. In his newspaper career he had filled every position from roller-boy to editor. Since Seaman was a Republican, the political news was to be slanted to that party.

In his first editorial he spoke out for "purity in public affairs, gold and silver coin only as money, the Chinese having a right to stay in this country, that any colored man was at liberty, if he so chose, to come to Indiana and earn his living without consulting Mr. Voorhees, and that the city of Terre Haute should have a public library (the opinion of the City Council of 1880 to the contrary notwithstanding).

A folio of 20 columns and only four pages, the Daily News did not carry "poster-type" advertising, but was meant to "be held in the hand and perused." It all boiled down to this statement: "What the public wants is less white paper and more news."

L. H. Brewster was in charge of city delivery and the carriers. After one week of publishing, the News reported 531 subscribers.

One of the Daily News' first advertisers was "Moore & Langen, The Printers, Daily Express Building, South Fifth Street, Cigar Labels in one or more colors, one of our specialities."

Complete railroad timetables were published, and "help wanted" advertisements were published free of charge. They used to publish daily the names of those registered at the Terre Haute, and later at other hotels.

The editor had opinions on everything going on in town. He believed the City Council should put special policemen at all the important street crossings to see that pedestrians use the right hand crossing. He observed that if two ladies crossed the street, one of them taking the right, the other the left crossing, and if they met, 1,000 men would have to get off in the mud. Talk about women's rights. They will take them on street crossings.

He also observed that a respectable lady could not go along Main Street anymore, between First and Second streets, without having some remarks made about her by the rowdies that were eternally around the saloons. Where are the police, he wanted to know.

During February of 1880, J. H. Clutter, the cooper, was keeping 60

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men busy making barrels for Hudnut's hominy mill. From 400 to 600 barrels were filled daily with the mill products. James Clutter's new residence was completed on Twelfth Street, south of Main Street.

George C. Hamilton opened a carpenter shop on Main, east of Thirteenth Street. Councilman Joseph Frisz had the foundation laid for his new residence on the corner of Thirteenth and Chestnut streets.

The obituaries of John Danaldson, aged 81 years, and Patrick Kavanaugh watchman at the Van Shops, were published.

In other news, the Steamer Reindeer arrived from the south with 200 sacks of corn for Hudnut and a big lot of stave timber for Gilman's. Capt. Kruzan stopped off at Sugar Creek for a hunt, and Sam Shewmaker brought her safely in.

Miss Gertie Hickox, North Seventh Street, was recovering from scarlet fever. William A. Stewart, conductor on the Owensville Branch, Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad, "takes to himself a a life partner today, and leaves tonight on a wedding trip."

Mrs. W. H. Richardson, wife of Conductor Richardson of the T.H.& I. Railroad, returned from visiting friends and relatives in Hendricks County.

Frank Lukes was convicted in Criminal Court of an assault with intent to kill Officer John J. Roach, and the jury awarded him two years in the penitentiary.

Robert Taggart of Ohmer's Depot Hotel had added a grey eagle to his zoological collection.

The City Council approved a proposal to open Seventeenth Street from Locust to Liberty Avenue.

Joseph D. Markle, former druggist with Cook & Bell, opened the South End Drug Store, 1015 S. 2nd St., near Farrington, and filled prescriptions both day and night.

Republican Second Ward meetings were held in 1880 at Charles Triche's shop, 513 Walnut St.

It was the observation of the editor that "the boy who doesn't leap o seven hitching posts, kick a lame d snatch a handful of navy beans front of every grocery store, kn over a box or two, and work handle of every pump on the sidew on his way home from school, either lazy or does not feel well."

The last issue of the Daily Ne was March 30, 1880, with 600 s scribers, but advertising limited. T experiment cost $800, and the edi said "thank you for all who have s a good word. We earned your go word."

On March 31, the newspaper was purchased by E. P. Beauchamp.

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark

100 years ago

Ts JUN 15 1980

How news reached Terre Hauteans

A century ago there were two daily papers in Terre Haute—the Express in the morning and the Gazette in the evening. These were delivered by carriers who were paid by the route manager who did both the collecting and soliciting of subscribers.

The carriers of the Express received their papers as they came off the press about 4 a.m. This was an old-fashioned cylinder press with a platen that covered the forms for the two pages and carried them back and forth beneath the cylinder around which the paper was sent by the feeder. As the cylinder revolved, the paper was pushed into position, so the clips caught the edge of the sheet and carried it around so the type forms were pressed against it.

As the forms returned ready for the next sheet, they separated so they did not touch the part of the cylinder and did not have the paper in position.

In those days, the boys folded their own papers, only four pages printed on ordinary days. The inside pages were printed earlier so that the printers and feeders were night workers for the morning paper and day workers for the evening paper.

Two and sometimes four pages were added for the Sunday issue of the Express and a few more at times for the Saturday Gazette. The Sunday morning paper was banned by many on religious scruples as it involved Sunday work.

To supplement the news, which was more scarce than in this day of instant communication, both papers used stereotype material furnished largely by firms who specialized in this type of material, set it up in type and sent out ready set metal plates.

Because of their weight and size, these plates became known as "boiler plate." The publishers bought this on a subscription basis, contracting for so much space, a page or two, or a few columns, and took what was sent them, including follow-ups on news items and the ever-popular romantic serials.

In a few instances the Express used woodcuts for illustrations, but the Gazette had an engraver who could put out an illustration on short notice. Looking back through the files of 100 years ago, we can find cuts made of popular local events, doings at the old "four-cornered" race track at the fairgrounds and famous horses Nancy Hanks and Axtell in action.

Those early newspaper carriers earned a dollar a week for about three hours a day, six days a week. Winter and summer they made their rounds, each covering about three miles. Some of the more adventuresome

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boys managed to carry out a copy under their coats to trade with an early rising baker for a few doughnuts or a cup of hot coffee.

Most of the routes handled a hundred papers, but some were even larger. Route 7 began at Hulman's Store, Fifth and Wabash, and took only the north side to Seventh, then both sides of the block between Seventh and Eighth. The Terre Haute House on the north and the Baur Building on the south were the only structures there.

On the north side between Eighth and Ninth were three brick buildings that still stand and several frames that have been gone a long time as has the single brick at Ninth.

On the south side were a drug store at the corner, Fleming's Livery Stable, two or three two-story bricks beyond that, and Eiser's Bakery and Candy Factory at the corner of Ninth (all replaced now).

Where the Hulman Building now stands was a frame building called "The Pig and Whistle," then some billboards and then the shop of the scissors grinder. He was a well known mechanic who operated some unique machinery. On a shouted order from above, two or three large dogs obediently started up the treadmill inside a large spoked wheel motivating the grinding wheel.

On the south side were two saloons and a grocery store, with a corner saloon known as Pete Staff's "Cob Web Hall." A warehouse on the north side east of the old Wabash and Erie Canal basin, and the Car Works on the south side took everything to the railroad.

From there on the paper carrier had all of the route between Wabash and the alley north of Poplar, with the limit known as the "Corporation Ditch," which is now the alley opposite Nineteenth Street.

From Fourteenth to Nineteenth were less than a dozen houses including the Stark, Sinclair, Gilbert and Froeb families. South of the Gilberts, there was only a single customer at the alley north of Poplar on Fourteenth Street. Near Twelfth and Walnut was the home of the Dreiser (Dresser) family. Two of the boys, Paul and Rome, frequently came home as late as 10 p.m., singing at the top of their lungs. Paul Dresser became famous as a composer and wrote Indiana's state song "On the Banks of the Wabash."

Historically Speaking

Ts JAN 20 1980

By Dorothy Clark

From Prairie City, Journal, Courier . . .

This week's column continues the saga of the history of early newspapers of Terre Haute.

About 1847 a man named Baker started a Democratic paper here known as the Terre Haute Journal. He was an able writer, but not much of a business man and failed to achieve financial success.

It passed into the hands of Grafton F. Cookerly who published it during the Civil War period. He sold it to James B. Edmunds and John S. Jordan, who ran it for a number of years before selling to a company headed by Eli Jones, a printer.

Later, Sidney B. Terry came to Terre Haute to take charge of the Journal, but he was not able to make it a paying enterprise and about 1877 it folded. At one time during its existence it was owned by Col. W. E. McLean.

In 1853 a weekly paper devoted mainly to local news and called the Prairie City was started by James B. Edmunds and Isaac Coltrin. It had a brief life under their control before they sold out to C.W. Brown who ran it for a year and then sold it to a man from Baltimore.

In 1861 the Prairie City was merged with a paper called the Union in which Isaac W. Brown owned an interest. He later converted it into a daily called the Terre Haute News and ran it until he joined the army and ceased publication.

In 1867 Major O.J.Smith and C.W.Brown founded the Terre Haute Weekly and Daily Gazette. It was a success from the start. However, there were some problems.

The paper had been running about three months when Erwin S. Erney became offended at some article in the paper reflecting on him. Meeting Brown on the street near Third and Main, he shot him, inflicting a serious wound from which he was a long time recovering.

After this event, the partners had a disagreement and Major Smith retired, selling his interest to Col. R.N. Hudson and L.M. Rose. A year later, the paper was sold to William G. and Spencer F. Ball, who ran it until 1904, when it was sold to the Tribune, now in its 113th year.

Major Smith continued his newspaper publishing career by founding the weekly Saturday Evening Mail soon after he retired from the Gazette. The Mail was a shining success from the start, but Smith continued to attract controversy.

The Franco-Prussian War was in progress in 1870 when the paper started, and Smith, with his characteristic independence, espoused the cause of the French. This was distasteful to the large number of local citizens of German ancestry.

Smith displayed a French flag from the window of his office which adjoined the old Hulman Building at Fifth and Main. This flag flying further offended the German sympathizers, and shortly after this incident Major Smith sold the paper to Perry S. Westfall, who had been connected with the Express.

Following Westfall's death in 1889, the paper was conducted for a short time by his son, Edwin P. Westfall, but it was finally sold and discontinued a few years later.

In 1884 Dick Thompson Morgan, a local attorney, started a daily paper known as the Courier, chiefly to promote his candidacy for state senator in the election campaign that year. Morgan was defeated and the Courier was discontinued.

In 1903 the Daily Post was founded by William F. Cronin and Edward M. Lucas, local newspaper men. It was later purchased by the Scripps-McRae newspaper league which continued it until it was purchased by The Star.

Even in a series of articles it would be impossible to tell of all the newspapers that have been started in Terre Haute. The present Tribune was established in 1894 by a group of newspaper men from Peru and Logansport, Ind. They were George B. Lockwood, W. W. Moore, Herbert Graffis and H.H. Six. After putting the paper on its feet, they sold it to J.S. Barcus who moved it from Fifth Street, between Wabash and Ohio, to the Bindley Building on Wabash Avenue near Seventh Street, and later to the Knights of Columbus building, northwest corner of Ninth and Ohio.

The paper was purchased by Crawford Fairbanks who erected the building at 721 Wabash Avenue which now houses the evening Tribune and the morning Star as well as the Sunday Tribune-Star. The Star had previously acquired the Post.

During the winter of 1978-79, the marquee was torn down from the Grand Theatre (formerly the Liberty Theatre) adjoining the newspaper building, and drastic remodeling transformed the premises into a home for the new four-color, offset printing press. This move into the modern computerized world of newspaper publishing brought Terre Haute's newspapers up-to-date, under the editors, Wayne Perry for the Tribune, Lawrence Sawyer for the Star, and Jess Williams for the Sunday Tribune-Star.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Early area newspapers had problems — and successes

Historically Speaking

Ts JAN 13 1980

By Dorothy Clark

When a new town was founded in pioneer days, it was important to get a newspaper started as soon as possible. It took nearly seven years for Terre Haute's first newspaper to appear.

Terre Haute was founded in October, 1816, and the Western Register printed its first issue on July 21, 1823. About 200 copies were offered to the citizens of the little village of approximately 500 population.

The scarce newsprint had to be hauled in from Louisville over bad roads or depend on sufficient water level of the Wabash river and steamboat schedules. The little double-fold paper approximately 12 x 14 inches appeared irregularly and sometimes in a half sheet. At times, ordinary store wrapping paper was used. The subscription rate was fixed at two dollars per year.

The first editor of the little newspaper was John W. Osborne. (Osborne Street was named in his honor.) He came here from Vincennes where he had published the Western Sun.

Because of his outspoken stand against slavery, Osborn stirred up a hornet's nest and was openly threatened by violence from the staunch supporters of slavery living there.

Osborn loaded his printing press in a wagon and set out for Terre Haute. On the trip north, the driver lost his way and the wagon overturned while attempting to cross a creek at the wrong fording place. The precious load was dumped in the water, but was rescued and finished the trip to Terre Haute to begin publishing the Western Register.

The first issue of Terre Haute's pioneer newspaper reported the Fourth of July celebration when Thomas H. Blake delivered the oration. Other news included the listing of regular line boats established between Terre Haute and Shawneetown, along with a notice that all letters to the paper must be "postpaid" (meaning pre-paid or postage-paid, as the term was employed then). No wonder. The editor was tired of paying 25 cents postage on each letter he received.

In 1829 illness compelled Osborne to retire from the newspaper, and two early pioneers of Terre Haute, Judge Amory Kinney and Judge Samuel B. Gookins (Osborne's son-in-law) became co-editors. Osborne's other daughter married Solomon Claypool of Indianapolis.

When Osborne recovered his health, he moved to Greencastle, founded the newspaper he called Ploughboy, and became prominent in that community.

In 1832 the Western Register was merged into the Wabash Courier by Thomas Dowling, who was editor and proprietor. He built Dowling Hall where the Chanticleer Building is now on the west side of North Sixth Street, between Wabash Avenue and Cherry Street. His large frame mansion on Sixth Street north of Locust Street later became Dowling Home for Aged Women until it was razed for new construction of public housing.

In 1841 Dowling sold the Courier to Jesse Conrad who was editor for 25 years. Dowling had agreed not to start another newspaper for five years, but with promising conditions here too good to pass up, he brought his brother John here from Washington, D.C. as the publisher, and established the Terre Haute Express in 1842 as a weekly paper first. The Dowlings ran it until 1845 when it was sold to David S. Danaldson.

First published in the second story of the Linton Building on Main Street, the Express was moved to an old frame building on the northeast corner of Fourth and Main, and then to a one-story frame next to the old Town Hall at Third and Ohio.

Community Affairs File
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Danaldson was editor of the first daily paper issued in Terre Haute on May 12, 1851.

Previous to this date, another weekly paper, the Wabash Enquirer, had been established here on July 4, 1838, by G.A. and Jacob Chapman, but it did not last long.

Danaldson was the father of former Mayor Frank C. Danaldson. The Express was sold to Col. Robert N. Hudson who published it more or less successfully for a number of years before selling it to the Civil War hero, General Charles Cruft.

Col. Hudson's views on running a daily newspaper were well known. He believed that if the publisher would put out at least one good issue a week it was enough; the readers, supposedly, would forget the other poor issues of the week.

Another Civil War veteran, Major O.J. Smith, a member of one of the oldest families in Vigo County, took over the Express from Cruft. About 1882 W.R. McKeen acquired ownership and brought George M. Allen and Harry G. Thompson from Washington to run it. They brought with them Samuel Butler, a well known newspaper correspondent there.

His style didn't meet with local approval and he didn't last long. A fiend for yellow sheet journalism, Butler would arrive at the office very early and scour the dailies from Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati for the most sensational stories for his front page.

Butler was succeeded by William O. Fishback, a native of Indianapolis but a veteran Washington correspondent and said to be the cleverest newspaper man ever to work on a Terre Haute newspaper.

In 1903 the Express was purchased by John C. Shaffer, a Chicago publisher, who added it to his Indiana chain of the Indianapolis Star and Muncie Star.

To make room for changes and additions to the office equipment, it was Schaffer who destroyed or sold

for old paper all the back files of the Express. Reliable local histories of communities have been written from such data, and it's difficult to understand how anyone connected with a newspaper, in whatever capacity, could have destroyed such valuable data.

The history of early newspapers of Terre Haute will be continued next week.

news in 1851

Ads provided most of day's news in 1851

Ts JUL 13 1986

✓Clark, Dorothy (+) Business/End

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Back in 1851, D. S. Danaldson was publishing a very small newspaper, the Daily Wabash Express, in Terre Haute. His office was located on Market Street (now South Third) east of the Vigo County courthouse. As was usual in those days, the newspaper contained very little news. The five columns on each of the four pages were filled with advertisements of local business firms.

The French Store located next door to J. Cook & Co. Hardware Store was operated by E. Leseure & Bro. They were "wholesale dealers in notions and fancy French articles, suspenders, purses, combs, shawl pins, breast pins, pearl buttons, studs, perfumery, watch keys, rings and tassels."

On Fourth Street between Wabash and Ohio streets, south of the post office was the T. H. Marble Depot run by A. B. Barton, dealer in Vermont and Italian marble. On short notice his marble yard furnished headstones, monuments, [illegible] and urns.

W. D. Johnson, boot and shoemaker, was located "one door south of the Eagle Grocery on Fourth Street."

The Confectionery, Bakery & Variety Store of Simpson & Co. on the west side of the Public Square was advertising "nectarine mead and Philadelphia ale."

Charlie Seeman operated a bakery and grocery along with a good boarding house on "National Road Street (Main Street) between Fourth and Fifth."

If milady of 1851 needed a new hat, she visited "Mrs. S. A. Wilson, Milliner and Mantua Maker, second door north of the Express Office, dealer in bonnets, ribbons, gloves, laces, collars, etc." Another advertisement in the headgear department offered "Florence, straw and Leghorn hats and bonnets cleansed, bleached and finished at Tinkham's Bonnet Rooms."

On the west side of Fourth Street, in the first building north of Main Street, could be found "L. Warren, Painter, Glazier and Paper Hanger."

Nelson's Premium Chinese Lustral Washing Fluid was being made in Terre Haute in 1851, and could be purchased at the third door east of the Post Office. It came highly recommended for washing by J. J. Meeker and W. Wallace.

Many merchants depended solely on the fine steamer OLIVE, Capt. T. J. Holton, Master. It plied a regular packet between Evansville and Terre Haute for the balance of the season (as long as the water held out before freezing solid.) The OLIVE was a fine, eight-draught steamer with fine accomodations for freight or passage.

Editorially, Danaldson commented that "the whistle of a steamboat on the Wabash at this season of the year (August) is rather uncommon." The low water level in summer always stopped river traffic, just as it did in flood times, or when it was frozen. Those who would plan to use the river year round for transportation should read local history.

Charles Huttner of National Road Street advertised that he had "just received per Steamer OLIVE fresh lemons and oranges, also 20 boxes of Western Reserve cheese." Scattered through the tiny newspaper were more of Huttner's ads. He offered two casks of French brandy, casks of pale brandy, Holland gin, Irish whiskey, three barrels of Malaga wine, a barrel of peppermint cordial and two boxes of lemon syrup, along with choice

imported cigars.

Because Terre Haute's first city directory was not printed until 1858, it's especially important to find source material from before that date to learn what businesses and industries were in operation in the city.

In 1884 B. C. Greiner set up a shoe factory at Eighth and Wabash. About 10 to 12 dozen pairs of ladies fine shoes and slippers were produced their daily.

The Electric Light & Power Co. commenced operation in April 1885, with 50 arc lights of the Thompson-Houston system. In the fall they competed for the street lighting of the city and were successful. They used the Hammerstein lamp support, their own patent, for suspending their lights over the street intersections. More than 200 lights were used to light city streets. Over 100 arc lights and some 500 incandescent lights were used in business houses, hotels, etc. Their plant was located on North Center Street at the Vandalia Railroad.

Ground was purchased at 16th Street and Maple Avenue in the spring of 1890 by C. J. Cobleigh for the establishment of a piano factory. The buildings covered an area of three acres. During the brief time it was in operation, it employed 250 men.

The Hub & Spoke Factory was located in the northeast city limits where it constructed phaetons, carriages, buggies, sulkies and wagons of all kinds. The original company was organized by Keyes in 1864 when it was located on the corner of First and Poplar streets. It soon outgrew that location. Vehicles were shipped all over the world from this plant.

One has only to read the old newspapers, city directories, diaries, letters and histories of the area to realize that listing all of the merchants, firms and industries that have come and gone during 170 years of Terre Haute's existence is nearly an impossible task.

Clark, Dorothy [redacted]

Terre Hauteans follows dreams throughout U.S.

TS AUG 24 1980

A. C. Duddleston, editor and publisher of the Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail, believed that the city itself was making waves when a local man went out to carve a name for himself.

"In politics, business or in social life," Duddleston said, "he will be found among the leaders."

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The whereabouts of former Terre Hauteans in 1897 was the first listing of its kind ever printed. Ninety years later it makes interesting reading, and, who knows, it just might be helpful in tracing a family line.

The list led off with Tell Stuart, son of contractor W. H. Stuart, freight conductor on Union Pacific, running from Cheyenne to Laramie, Wyo.

Former deputy city clerk "Gym" Maher had an important position with the New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad at Cincinnati.

Richard McKeen, formerly of McKeen's Bank, was in the lumber business at Williamsburg, Ky.

Will Harris was a clerk in James Wilde's clothing store at Chicago.

Leonard C. Wood, away from Terre Haute for 20 years, was a practicing attorney at Washington, D.C.

Tom W. Stewart, superintendent of a Tennessee railroad, lived at Nashville.

Harry K. Ross was a grocer at Sullivan.

Randolph Allen, son of the late Judge J. M. Allen, was an official of Wells-Fargo Express Co. at Denver.

Arthur Green was in the newspaper business at Pueblo, Colo.

James Hanna, son of the late B. W. Hanna, became a lawyer in Washington, D.C. His mother lived at Crawfordsville.

Albert Houriet was proprietor of two or three retail stores in Washington.

Ewald Langen, known by his friends as Jack, was a partner in one of Louisville's largest cloak houses with a branch at Indianapolis.

Harry W. Kellog had a responsible position with one of the largest railway systems in the south, with headquarters in Avondale, Ala. His wife was the former high school teacher, Miss Addie Eaton.

The Rev. C. R. Anderson was a professor of sociology at Chicago University where Professor Arnold Tompkins and his wife were students.

Ed Crain lived at Orange, N.J.

Warwick H. Ripley was one of the leading members of the Indianapolis bar.

James Oakey was pastor of the Congregational Church at Zumbrata, Minn.

Horace G. Burt was superintendent of the C. & N. W. Railway at Omaha, Neb. His wife was formerly Anna Teel.

William H. Peddle was superintendent of Central Railroad of New Jersey and lived at Rochelle.

B. C. Burt was a professor at Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

Howell Hansell, prominent actor, was last seen in a stage play appearance at Terre Haute with "Lady Windemere's Fan."

D. N. Gould was with a steam pump company at Chicago. His son, Mort Gould, was in the lumber business there with his father-in-law, ex-Mayor Dickason of Danville.

Ex-mayor W. H. Armstrong was in the surgical instrument business at Indianapolis.

Frank Harbert was running a successful real estate agency at Los Angeles, Calif.

Jack Reed was located at Atlantic City, N.J., still in "show biz."

George Kern held a position with Jeweler Marcy at Indianapolis.

Tom Sanders was at Philadelphia with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Fred Foulkes was at Chicago with Phoenix Insurance Company.

Charles and Doug Griffith were running a wholesale book and shoe house at Chicago.

William Burcham was assistant stage carpenter with Kellar, the magician.

George Taylor was practicing law at Chicago.

Samuel and William Edmunds held jobs at the government printing office at Washington, D.C.

James Rockwell was a railroad engineer at San Jose, Calif. Charles Rockwell was a passenger agent on the Monon Railroad. George Rockwell was passenger agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad at Cincinnati.

Robert Hudson was a civil engineer for Northern Pacific at Minneapolis, Minn.

Harry Estabrook was with Barney-Smith car company, Dayton, Ohio.

Henry Holland and Barclay G. Merring were architects at Buffalo, N.Y.

Sigmund Frank was an electrician with municipal electric light company at Chicago.

Arnold Layman worked for Walker Electric Co. at St. Louis.

Edward Insley was a Chicago Tribune reporter and also connected with the Trib's New York office.

Hubert Jones was a reporter at Chicago, working for the Chicago Chronicle.

The 1897 whereabouts of former Terre Hauteans will be continued next month in another column.

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Community Affairs File

More about Terre Hauteans who made good...

Ts SEP 1 4 1986

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

A column last month began the listing of the whereabouts in 1897 of former Terre Hauteans. Editor Duddleston of the Saturday Evening Mail considered it proof of his theory that Terre Haute was put on the map when any of its citizens became successful in the business world, whether in politics, trade or professional life.

In 1897, George Taylor was a lawyer in Chicago.

Will Morgan was the manager of a big coal business in Chicago.

Ira and Lewis Calder were connected with a Chicago broker's office.

Henry C. Wolfe was a physician in Clay City.

John Oakey was a merchant in Enfield, Ill.

A. W. Heinley was running a hotel in Danville, Ill., managing the opera house, partner in a big wholesale house and had an interest in a patent medicine enterprise.

H. C. Davis was engine dispatcher for the Chicago & Erie Railroad at Hammond.

Chester H. N. Briscoe was in business in Chicago. His wife, formerly Nettie Watson, was teaching in the Chicago public schools.

Helen Barton was teaching in Florida.

Charles T. "Doc" Appleby was agent for a Pittsburgh oil refinery.

Will and Ed Barton were in the salt business in Hutchinson, Kan. Their brother, Frank, was freight agent at Evansville.

John H. Grafe was a merchant at Clay City.

George A. Hayward was in the grocery business at Mt. Carmel, Ill.

T. H. Riddle was in real estate in Kansas City. The Terre Haute colony there included J. D. Adams, Eugene Hess, who was in the drug business, and John B. Wills, who ran a big saloon there.

A. J. Grundy, formerly a local school teacher, lived in Lebanon, Ky.

Professor Henry Greenawalt was in business in Los Angeles, Calif.

James P. Johnson was a farmer at Mapleton in Marion County.

The Rev. G. P. Peale was living in North Springfield, Mo., where he had made a lot of money in the real estate business.

Eugene R. Glover was a prosperous druggist in Pueblo, Calif.

Will Jarhoe was the eastern manager of P. F. Collier Publishing Company with headquarters in Boston. His wife was a former local girl, Miss Mahoney.

J. M. Allen Jr., son of the late Judge Allen, was in Chicago working at Marshall Field & Co.

Attorney Richard Dunnigan was a prominent Democratic politician at Los Angeles.

Adam R. Link was operating a planing mill at Tacoma, Wash. His son Henry was a contractor and builder there.

L. Genis, receiver for the old Illinois Midland, was a civil engineer in Brussels, Belgium.

Ed Alexander was prospering in real estate at Houston, Texas.

George H. Williams, son of the late H. D. Williams, had gone west many years ago and was with Commercial Bank, Independence, Kan.

Will Hyde, son of Dr. John Hyde, was involved with the American Checker Review, a 16-page monthly publication in Chicago.

Robert M. Harrison was in the grocery business in Hutchingson, Kan.

Joe McChesney, formerly merchant policeman in Terre Haute, was in business in Catskill, N.Y.

Charles A. Lowery became a rice planter at Lake Arthur, La.

Robert Taggart was in the hotel business in Decatur, Ill.

Ed Vandever lived in Eldorado, Kan.

Frank Miller was a clothing clerk in New York City.

Frank Seeman, former owner of the Terre Haute Daily News, was running a job office in Knoxville, Tenn.

Thomas P. Grace was in the life insurance business in Chicago.

Frank D. Russell, formerly of Brinkman & Russell, lived in Denver.

Dr. E. T. Stetson was a physician in Damarescotta, Maine.

C. B. King, former local city councilman, was living in Indianapolis and traveling for Kingan Company.

Frank Singleton was proprietor of a daily newspaper in Martinsville.

Col. W. H. Fairbanks was living in Joplin, Mo., where he had interests in lead mining.

Albert Banta was in the lumber business in Jefferson, Texas.

George Penn was in railroading at Austin, Texas.

Professor J. G. Wisbeck, formerly a teacher at the local Lutheran school, was in charge of a school at Milwaukee.

Joseph V. D. Coleman was in the transfer business in Rockville.

Community Affairs File

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daughters...

More about Terre Haute's favorite sons and

Ts NOV 09 1986

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

This is the final installment of the 1897 whereabouts of former Terre Hauteans as compiled by Editor Duddleston of the Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail. He believed that Terre Haute's fame was enhanced by the many successful men and women who left the city to further their careers in every type of business and endeavor possible.

Charles Monninger went into the artificial ice business at Peoria, Ill.

John S. Talbot was promoted in 1897 to the Wisconsin Central Railroad at Milwaukee.

Ed Moorhead and his brother James, formerly a printer here, were practicing medicine in Chicago.

Walter B. Wiley was chemist for a southern coal business.

Walter Schumann, former superintendent of the printer's home at Colorado Spring, had retired and was living in Denver.

A former clerk for S. Loeb for years, John P. Foley went to Chicago and was appointed by Governor Altgeld as superintendent of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. After the election of a Republican governor, Foley went back into private business in Chicago.

Miss Amalia Kussner made an international reputation as a portrait miniature painter, doing work of this kind for the belles and beauties of nearly every large city in the country. In 1897 she was in England attending the jubilee celebration and executing orders for some of England's great.

Joseph C. Foley was assistant corporation counsel in Chicago.

Frank Dupell and Charles A. Bennett were connected with B. of L. F. offices in Peoria, where Frank P. Sargent, grandmaster, and F. W. Arnold, grand secretary, also resided.

Mark Shryer and D. C. Buntin, having made a great deal of money from their patent Parkhurst street curbing (used on Fifth and Seventh streets in Terre Haute) had their headquarters in Indianapolis.

Walter S. Dunbar was in the newspaper business in New York City. His wife, Agnes Brennan, was a former school teacher here.

Charles A. Damond was circulation agent for Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The Rev. H. O. Breeden was one of the leading divines of Des Moines.

Miss Alice Fischer, successful actress, was Mrs. William Harcourt King in private life. She was a member of Charles Frohman's company in New York City.

Miss Maude Hosford, another local actress, was a leading lady in a road show.

A. M. Hardy, former reporter for the Terre Haute Express, served one term as congressman for the Second District of Indiana but was defeated in 1896. However, he decided to stay on in Washington.

John Paddock, deputy treasurer of Winfield, Kans., for many years, moved to Denver.

Professor William Ames, formerly of Rose Poly, was teaching at an engineering school in Worcester, Mass.

Professor Lucien Blake was a member of the faculty of Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kans.

W. S. Carr had been living in St. Petersburg, Fla., for 15 years prior to 1897.

Gottlieb Golder was employed with a church publishing company in Pittsburgh.

Clarence B. Houston was in the buggy business at Atlanta, Ga.

Charles E. Fuller was employed with the Vermont Central Railroad and located at St. Albans, Vt.

Frederick Schwingrouber, former local city clerk, was living in Hoboken, N.J.

Marion Watson, former printer on the Terre Haute Express, became editor of the Saturday Bee at Hutchingson, Kans.

John G. Williams was practicing law in Indianapolis, and was counsel for Receiver Malott of the Vandalia Railroad.

Vigo County Public Library
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Community Affairs File

Albert Stump was in the milling business at West Union, Ill.

George Mitchell, son of Isaac A. Mitchell who was a resident of Brazil in 1897, was an ensign in the U.S. Navy and had been stationed for several years with the gunboat Yantic at Montevideo, South America, was on duty at the naval college at Newport, R.I., in 1897.

This column completes the four parts of A. C. Duddleston's editorial as found in the Saturday Evening Mail in 1897. It was a souvenir edition and painted the city in glowing terms as it rose from depression years and was showing much progress in the late Gay Nineties.

Ninety years ago the readers of this special edition were personally acquainted with these people or with their relatives. Duddleston firmly believed that everyone from Terre Haute served as good ambassadors for the city. He encouraged people to keep him informed of their whereabouts, their successes, their moves to other positions, and how it all tied in with the education and other training they received early in life here in the Queen City of the Wabash.

Editor Duddleston was one of the city's greatest boosters.

Editor found dozens of ambassadors for city

Ts OCT 1 9 1986

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

This is the third installment of the listing of the whereabouts in 1897 of former Terre Hauteans. The list first was published by Editor Duddleston in the Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail. He firmly believed that every man and woman who left the city to further their careers brought the best possible publicity to Terre Haute.

Ben Hughes, former picture framer for Probst & Fisbeck, was running a photo gallery in Omaha.

Tom Cookerly was the traveling passenger agent for a western railroad and lived in Des Moines.

James L. Brennan was a fashionable tailor in the Equitable Building in St. Louis.

Henry C. Wirth was employed at one of the big distilleries in Pekin, Ill.

Henry J. Westfall, a former local post office employee, went west in 1886 and was mining in Alaska in 1897.

Fred Bell, son of John D. Bell, was in Spanish Honduras, Central America, where he became successful in gold and silver mining.

Horace Blinn was in the lumber business in Cass County, Texas.

Robert Flinn was postmaster of Cascade, Mont.

James P. Voorhees, author, actor, dramatist, etc., was a sculptor in Washington, D.C. Reese Voorhees, another son of the late Senator Voorhees, also lived in Washington, where he was practicing law. He graduated as a physician in New York, but gave it up to study law.

James P. Foley, formerly manager of Pixley & Co. in Terre Haute, went in the coal business in Chicago, then "struck it rich" in Cripple Creek.

Walter M. Strange was in the coal business in Minneapolis.

Frank Ross, son of Mayor Ross, was superintendent of a mining company in Seattle, Wash.

J. D. Parker was in Orange, Calif.

Ben McFarland lived at Flora, Ill., and traveled for a St. Louis wholesale house.

H. Bartholomew lived in Ward.

Col. Will H. Cox was in the newspaper business in Omaha.

Charles Barrick was in the grocery business in Denver.

Charles E. Bateman was with American Press Association in Chicago.

Albert E. Joab was considered a brilliant lawyer in Tacoma.

Julius Brittlebank was a commission merchant at Charleston, S.C.

Charles M. Smith, formerly at the National House in Terre Haute, was in the hotel business at Birmingham, Ala.

Will Reynolds, former steward at the same hotel, was in the restaurant business at Colorado Springs.

William E. Kirtley owned a large ranch near Cushing, Okla. His son Fred had a ranch on the border of the Creek Nation, Indian Territory.

Emma V. Bichowsky was running an orange plantation in southern California.

Clara M. Badgeley was a stenographer in Portland, Ore.

Charles S. Voorhees practiced law in the State of Washington and was a delegate to Congress while it was still a territory.

John Mack, son of Judge Mack, was a professor at State University, Madison, Wisc.

J. R. Cummings went into the patent medicine and real estate business in Chicago. His brother, George W. Cummings, was in New York City and was secretary of American Press Association, of which former Terre Hautean Major O. J. Smith was president, and lived at Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

Robley Stevenson became a "funny man" of national reputation and lived in Indianapolis and wrote for the Journal.

Jerry Kenworthy was in the railroad business at Salt Lake City. His wife was one of Terre Haute's sweetest singers, May McEwan.

Charles M. Conn was in the syrup business in Chicago. His associates, Fred Brown and Will Scudder, also were from Terre Haute.

Harry J. Graham was general agent of the Lake Erie & Western Railway in Peoria.

Otto O. Heyroth was with New England Life Insurance Co. in Cincinnati.

Jacob Jackson and Jacob Frisz, son of Joseph Frisz, were in Tucson.

Charles M. Rieves was in the newspaper business in St. Louis.

Amos R. Gruber became a miller at Cory. His sons, Bud and Roy, worked with him.

Joe Shryer became a merchant at Bloomfield.

John G. Shryer lived on his farm in Clark County, Ill.

George Eldred, formerly of the Union Depot Drug Store here, became manager of a wholesale drug business in Chicago.

M. A. Murphy, former city editor of the Terre Haute Express, went to work for A. N. Kellogg Newspapers Co., St. Louis.

Harvey W. Carr, old-time local printer and son of "Uncle Tommy" Carr, became superintendent of police, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Peter Gfroerer, former editor of the Terre Haute Banner, worked for a Cincinnati job office.

Lee Harrison was a manager of a big glucose factory at Peoria.

Ed L. Spears became a merchant in Pontiac, Ill.

Hugo Faust became a druggist at Marshall, Ill.

George E. Hedges Jr. went into railroading at Salt Lake City.

Will S. Hedges became railroad agent in northern Utah.

Will Hagedorn was a partner in Townley Metal Co., Kansas City, Mo., of which James P. Townley was president.

Harmon L. Miller worked for the government in Washington, D.C.

John V. Graff, congressman from Peoria district, lived at Pekin.

John Hoffman worked with a lake transportation company at Chicago.

Ed Gifford went to Mexico where he bought valuable plants and curiosities for the eastern market.

H. J. Kramer gained fame and fortune as professor of dancing in Los Angeles.

Henry Stein ran a type-setting machine on the New York Mail & Express.

Walter Walmsley, son of E. M. Walmsley, became an expert electrician. After graduating from Rose Polytechnic, he took post graduate work at Lynn, Mass., and became superintendent of construction for the Electric Company at Philadelphia.

Dan Dean and Tom Gist went into business at Evansville.

Sam Duncan became assistant editor of Gast-Paul Bankers' Reporter of St. Louis.

Frank Link traveled for a wholesale saddlery hardware house of Chicago.

Harry Torner represented a wholesale clothing firm at Philadelphia.

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Community Affairs File

100 years ago

New TH buildings made news

Clark, Dorothy
Ts MAR 15 1987

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

One hundred years ago local residents were reading the Terre Haute Gazette, published by W. C. and Spencer Ball at 25 South Fifth St. Their editorial furnished a clue that many downtown buildings were erected in 1887. "A noticeable feature about Terre Haute is that most of the old frame buildings have been torn down this summer and replaced with fine brick blocks."

There were job opportunities that year. Coates College needed a "good female cook and janitor." Six women were needed to do housework, one to care for children, and one nurse. Boarding houses were all over town and doing a brisk business. Men came to town to find work and needed a place to stay until they could send for their families.

State Normal School (now Indiana State University) opened its fall term on Sept. 6. Students were in need of rooms to rent or "clubbing accommodations."

The oldest harnessmaker in town was Jacob Farley whose shop was located at 312 Wabash.

H. Eldred advertised that he did upholstering, carpentering and make-to-order hair and moss mattresses at the Eureka Repair Shop, 27 S. Second St.

Block coal was selling for $2.75 a ton. First-class yellow corn was selling for 50 cents a bushel at Elevator B, Fourth and the Vandalia Railroad.

Three local money lenders in 1887 were soliciting borrowers. They were I. H. C. Royse, 517 Ohio; T. H. Riddle, corner Fifth and Main; and E. P. Beauchamp, 521 Ohio. In those days property had to be worth three times the amount of the loan.

The late Catherine Bemberg had left $600 in her will to go toward the purchase of a new bell in St. Benedict's Church.

Much space in the old newspaper was devoted to news of the county fair. It was reported that 10,000 people had attended the previous day, Sept. 1, 1887. "A perfect procession of carriages and wagons, filled mostly with people from the country, could be seen going out Main Street towards the grounds." The fairgrounds and race track were located where the ISU football stadium and golf course are now.

Every streetcar, hack and transfer wagon brought out all of the people that could crowd their way into them and still they kept on coming. The Blake cars were insufficient to accommodate the crowd, and a number of extra cars were put on.

At 1:30 p.m. over 4,000 tickets had been sold at the west entrance alone. The north and south entrances also were busy, in addition to the tickets sold by Joseph Blake at his office where he sold tickets for his transportation line east. Blake received 20 percent of his ticket sales in consideration for having built the east street railway.

The newspaper account of the fairgrounds told how the entire space in the rear of the grandstand was taken up with refreshment stands, lunch counters, 10-cent circuses, cane racks and the usual run of fairground necessities.

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The peanut man was there, the patent medicine vendors with cure-all elixirs, musicians, Indians, etc., " ... all keeping up a perfect din of ear-splitting music, yelling and shouting out the quality of their wares."

The judges of the Baby Show were Mrs. L. Durham, Mrs. C. W. Ross and Sarah Yates. They awarded the prize, a trunk valued at $20, to little Ed Bergman, 5 months and 22 days old, the son of the E. W. Bergmans, 200 S. Seventh St.

The balloon ascension in the afternoon was a big attraction, along with 510 exhibitors. Secretary Oakey reported there were 3,800 entries in all departments of the county fair.

All the regular trains running into Terre Haute had extra coaches attached. The I. & St. L. passenger train arrived with five coach loads in addition to the regular train. An excursion came in from the Logan Division of the Vandalia with seven coaches.

A century ago it was the custom to publish a list of unclaimed letters at the post office. The ladies' list included Mrs. Ella Black, Miss Anna Daly, Amelia Etenburger, Mrs. Ella Franklin, Kizzie Gatlin, Mrs. Era Harmon, Miss Fanny Miller, Mrs. Ida B. McCane, Mrs. Vic A. Palmer, Miss Clara Ryan, Mrs. Martin V. B. Shaver, Miss Maud Stanford, Miss Ora Stiles, Mrs. H. E. Smith, Miss Gabe Smith and Miss Rosa Tilath.

The gentlemen's list included E. D. Chimpam, Ira Cable, R. P. English, William Freers, Dominic O. Haering, William Holt, Joseph Kellar, Ed H. Lambert, James Newton, L. H. Padgett, C. H. Rankin, Nelson Rush, William Roush, Aaron T. Stahl, Harry Thornburg, W. H. Turner, Frederick J. Thomas, J. T. Vest and the Terre Haute Marriage Association.

Haute in 1851

Vigo County Public Library

Here's what was news in Terre

JUN 28 1987

Clark, Dorothy

JUN 28 1987

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

An 1851 copy of The Wabash Courier, Terre Haute's weekly published every Saturday morning, tells that "since April 1, 309 wagons have crossed the Terre Haute Bridge, averaging five persons to the wagon, on their way to Iowa and Oregon. Most were from the interior of Indiana, the rest from Ohio. About 50 of the wagons were bound for Oregon, an unusual number of movers for the season of the year."

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It was news when "Chauncey Rose, president of the Terre Haute Richmond Rail Road Company," returned to the city after an absence on business for the company. He reported everything as progressing very well for the early completion of the railroad.

The iron had all been shipped from England, and 2,000 tons were on the way up from New Orleans to Terre Haute. Four locomotives also were on their way from the east coast.

Under construction were 70 gravel and 20 platform cars, and it was planned to commence laying the iron about the middle of May, beginning simultaneously at each end of the road. It was predicted that the locomotive would soon be heard whistling over the prairie.

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The Courier announced that the weather was fine and somewhat warm. The Wabash River was getting rather low, though still navigable for good-sized boats.

Steamboats listed having stopped at Terre Haute were the Hail Columbia, Vermont, Julia, Gen. Gaines, H. H. Summers, Olive, Peru, Industry, Lewis Wetzel, Financier, and the Kentucky No. 2.

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The Wabash & Erie Canal was in fine boating order, and freight boats were plying steadily along it in April 1851. No packet boats had made their appearance yet, except the Flying Eliza, which kept up communication between Terre Haute and Point Commerce.

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In other travel news, it was noted that J. R. Duff was the Master from the steamboat Lewis Wetzel. Those persons seeking passage on Samuel Doyle's Terre Haute, Toledo & Cincinnati U.S. Mail Packet Line were informed it would begin running on April 20. Reservations could be handled at the Stewart House.

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An experienced sawyer was wanted at the Buena Vista Steam Saw Mill two miles east of Brazil, by its owner, James McKinley.

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Mahan & Hawkins had moved their Prairie City Drug Store to the east corner of Union Row. Miller & Soule had opened their Tower Mills at the corner of Water and Chestnut streets.

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The Prairie City Store was selling calico for sixpence a yard. The latest new books offered by A. Child's Bookstore included: "The Prairie" by Cooper; "The Lorgnette," "Life of John Randolph" and "Mount Hope."

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Postmaster J. T. Moffatt announced that the post office would be open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 8 to 9 a.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.

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Jacob Sites wanted his customers to know that his cabinet making business was "still at the old stand on Market Street, nearly opposite the American, at the sign of The Bedsteads where he is prepared to fill all orders, from a cradle to a coffin ... "

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The opening schedule for The Terre Haute Institute for Young Ladies was announced. The Misses Watson from Boston and recently from Charleston, Ind., planned to open a boarding and day school for young ladies in the house known as the McMurran property (later Judge Deming's house) ... "

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Two new city ordinances were adopted in April 1851. The first regulated and restrained sales at auction. A license to hold auctions within the city would now cost $40 per year.

The second ordinance provided for the changing of the grade and drainage of Wabash, Ohio and Walnut streets. From that day forward, water was to run to the river instead of stand in swampy puddles along those streets that still baffle city fathers every time there's a heavy rain just as it did 136 years ago.

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It was considered ethical in 1851 for doctors to advertise in local newspapers. Dr. J. Evans was located on Market Street, first door south of Town Hall. Dr. William Miller had his office and residence on Fourth Street near the Baptist Church. Dr. Elliott and Dr. Palmer shared an office in the Scott Building opposite the City Hotel. Dr. A. Holmes announced his retirement, but assured his patients that his practice would be taken care of by Dr. J. H. Long.

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Community Affairs File

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Politics was of great interest in 1851. The 7th Judicial Circuit included the counties of Knox, Sullivan, Vigo, Clay, Putnam, Pike and Vermillion. Candidates for the office of prosecuting attorney were Harvey D. Scott of Terre Haute and William A. Jones of Vincennes.

John P. Usher of Terre Haute, who later became a member of Abraham Lincoln's cabinet, announced his intention to the voters of the 7th Congressional District that he would be a candidate for Representative in the next Congress if nominated by the Whig Congressional Convention.

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The double-fold, only four-page Wabash Courier cost $2 a year. The editor, Jesse Conard, proclaimed on the mast head that his weekly was devoted to politics, literature, agriculture, commerce and general news.

An advertisement could be inserted three times at the rate of 11 lines for $1. Big advertisers received deductions if they bought half-columns or full columns. Patent medicine testimonials filled several columns to advertise bitters and herb concoctions containing a high percentage of alcohol.

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Readers are urged to contact this writer when old newspapers are found in attics and old trunks. Local history is gained when they are carefully studied.

Who says old news is no news? Not historian

Clark, Dorothy

IS OCT 18 1987

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Any old newspaper, regardless of age or condition, is fascinating to this writer. When people bring them to me, whether a gift or a loan, I'm always appreciative. Historically speaking, old newspapers are classified as original research source materials, and for that reason are important.

An antique dresser purchased at a farm sale had an oval mirror beyond re-silvering. When it was replaced, an Aug. 12, 1868, issue of the New York Tribune was found as extra padding behind the mirror.

News concerned the explosion of a gas main in the Capitol Building, under the center of the dome, in what was known as the Washington crypt. All the heavy framework surrounding it was blown out, tearing all the doors, frames and windows to splinters, and scattering fragments in all directions through the basement.

Part of the funeral paraphernalia of the late President Lincoln which had been stored in the crypt for safe-keeping was ignited by flames and partially destroyed. Fortunately, no one was in the immediate vicinity and there were no injuries.

Quite a bit of news space was devoted to England's drouth, which was in its 54th day. In this country everyone was talking about the disease among Western cattle which had been diagnosed as malignant typhus and not rinderpest as previously announced.

The market report included many items not listed today: items such as saltpetre, spelter, stearin, sumac, whalebone, soap and whiskey.

The latest sheet music of August 1868 sold for 30-35 cents each. Arrangements for the flute or violin were only 15 cents.

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Most of the 1868 newspaper was devoted to political news and ads for campaign items of the presidential candidates. Steel engravings of Grant, Colfax, Seymour and Blair were available along with campaign flags, pins, medals, sleeve buttons, shirt studs, songsters, badges and envelopes.

For a quarter one could buy booklets containing the life histories of Grant and Colfax, and the Grant genealogy. Torches, lanterns, caps and capes were sold to those taking part in the torchlight parades.

The 1868 Republican Convention met at Chicago while President Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial was still in progress. General Grant was chosen to head the ticket. Party leaders thought he would make an ideal figurehead, for he knew nothing about politics. He had never held public office and only once in his life had taken the trouble to vote. His former soldiers and other Northerners credited him with saving the Union.

The Democrats nominated former Governor Horatio Seymour of New York. They condemned the Radical program of reconstruction, demanded an end of military rule in the South, and applauded President Johnson.

Seven Confederate states were re-admitted to the Union before the November election. All but two went Republican. Grant won a decisive victory in the electoral college (214 to 80), but had only a bare majority of the popular votes.

The State of Indiana made the New York news. "Whatever the Republicans of other states may be doing, the Republicans of Indiana can surely not be charged with lukewarmness and inactivity. Satisfied as they are that they will elect the State Ticket in October by from 15 to 20 thousand majority, and that they will give Grant and Colfax in November a larger majority than the Republicans have yet obtained in Indiana, they proceed with the same energy and painstaking deliberation as though the issue were extremely doubtful."

An immense Republican mass meeting was held in Indianapolis on Aug. 10, 1868. Over 10,000 "Fighting Boys in Blue" attended to hear speakers Gen. John A. Logan, Gen. George H. Thomas, Gen. Daniel E. Sickles and others.

So much history can be found in even fragments of old newspapers. Call this writer before throwing them away.

Several years ago some Cub Scouts were playing ball out behind our garage. In a refreshment break, one little boy was bragging about his mother who was an nurse, another's mother was a school teacher, etc. Not to be outdone, my small son announced that his mother read old newspapers. That clinched the discussion. No one could top that. The ball game took up where it left off, and a thoughtful mother tiptoed quietly back to the kitchen.

other 1876 news

Clark, Dorothy

'Pneumonia of the Wabash' and

TS NOV 2 9 1987

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

From a fading copy of the Terre Haute Evening Gazette dated Nov. 27, 1876, delivered to Engalbart Coordes' grocery store, southeast corner of Seventh and Hulman streets, it is possible to learn what was going on in town 111 years ago.

There were reports of flying saucers (or their equivalent). A paper balloon 10 feet long and 6 feet in diameter passed over the city and lodged in a tree on the Joseph Gilbert farm east of town (on what now is Fruitridge Avenue). He had the tree cut down to retrieve the torn balloon. No markings were found, and its place of launching or former owner were never discovered.

Thirteenth Street was being fixed, but in the meantime, was impassable. New ties and steel rails were being laid across the Vandalia bridge.

The Gazette office advertised the sale of old newspapers, 25 cents a hundred. They were considered just the thing to lay under carpets, light fires with, make bustles out of, or wrap things in. They were the cheapest things going for all these purposes.

The police were asked to remove barrels blocking the sidewalks along Main Street.

Ernst Seeger owned the Centennial Barber Shop located downstairs at the southwest corner of Fifth and Main streets. He offered "good barbers and an attentive bootblack and brush boy. Leeches kept constantly on hand and ether applied or sold to the medical profession."

Furs were in the news. D. Lelever of Indianapolis had opened a branch fur store at the corner of Fifth and Main. Sykes' Hat Store sold extra fine furs of mink, seal, otter and lynx. They also sold seal hats for men and fur turbans and school caps for children.

L. Goodman Jr. & Co. had two locations in the Opera House Block and at 328 Main St. Overcoats ther sold for $3 to $10. Fine all-wool beaver, kersey and chinchilla overcoats sold for $10 to $20.

Four Terre Haute physicians — Dr. Ezra Read, Dr. J. P. Worrell, Dr. J. B. Armstrong and Dr. Mitchell — attended the Tri-State Medical Society of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois at Vincennes.

Read presented a paper on traumatic tetanus (lockjaw) sharing his experiences of 50 years as a doctor.

He treated one case of lockjaw successfully by administering whiskey, three gallons in a week, a little over three pints daily. The usual remedies had been tried previously without any cure.

Armstrong read a paper on "Pneumonia of the Wabash." Whether it was different from the disease in any other area was not stated. Possibly it was just a listing of his cases and how he cured or lost them.

By reading the patent medicine advertisements in the newspaper, people learned that dope addicts could be cured of the opium habit; coughs could be stopped with Wells' Carbolic Tablets sold in blue boxes; and pain could be stopped by using Mustang Liniment, good for man and his horse.

Those suffering from catarrh, lame back and loss of manhood could find help by buying a local product. Jules Houriet made the

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Swiss Ague Cure in Terre Haute and shipped hundreds of gallons of the bottles to sufferers all over the Midwest.

Two dentists advertised their services. They were Robert Van Valzah, with offices in the Opera House building, and George W. Ballew, 119 Main St.

In the lost and found department, Mrs. George Atherton, who lived between Fourth and Fifth on Chestnut Street, lost her red morocco diary at the Union Depot. She offered a substantial reward.

Paige's Music Store had a six-octave melodian in a piano case to sell to some church or school.

George F. Ripley & Co. were making improvements and managing the Terre Haute House.

The Western Bazaar advertised striped India shawls in the very latest styles. Each afternoon and evening a jewelry auction was held at O. Trask's store.

Editorials were concerned with the election situation in the southern states. President U. S. Grant and his Secretary of War, J.D. Cameron, were trying to untangle the alleged election frauds in Louisiana and other southern states. The first through Pullman car crowded with passengers ran from Louisville, Ky., to Jacksonville, Fla.

J. Milton Turner, the black U.S. Minister to Siberia, was refused accommodations at the Astor House in New York City. He sued the hotel for $5,000 damages under the Civil Rights Bill.

The country was celebrating its 100th birthday when this newspaper was printed. The Civil War was over and the wounds were beginning to heal. Business was good, and things were on the rise, including the Wabash River.

Terre Haute and the surrounding area had much to be thankful for that Thanksgiving Week in 1876.

Mud and matrimonial issues mark 120-year-old issue of Weekly Express

V Clark, Dorothy
T S MAR 2 0 1988

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The Terre Haute Weekly Express printed a four-page newspaper of 32 columns just 120 years ago this week. Ten of those columns were taken up by a speech given by Col. Richard W. Thompson.

Local news was squeezed into the space left over after 13 columns of advertisements and legal notices were included.

The early spring weather in 1868 brought with it the usual problems in Terre Haute. According to the editor, "The melancholy days have come, the muddiest of the year . . . we call attention of our citizens, and especially of our City Fathers, to the wretched condition of the sidewalks on most of our leading thoroughfares.

"In some parts of our city, at this time, they are almost impassable. Ladies and children can only go out at the risk of wet and muddy feet and consequent illness. Many persons of weak and delicate constitutions are absolutely imprisoned in their houses, because they dare not venture upon the wet and sloppy side-walks.

"This reproach upon our other wise beautiful city can be easily remedied, at no great expense," the editor wrote, "by brick or coal tar pavements. Graveling is only a temporary relief, requiring constant renewal at much greater expense in the long.

"We hope that some enterprising contractor will make an estimate of the cost upon several of our leading sidewalks and submit a fair proposition to property holders of the City Council, for making substantial and durable pavements."

In 1868, the greatest amount of pedestrian travel off Main Street was on the east side of Seventh Street, between the Terre Haute House and Chestnut Street. In addition to the local transit, "which is very considerable," most people walking to the railroad station went this way, as did those attending the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist churches.

To emphasize his point about muddy streets causing illness, the editor reported the deaths caused by exposure, consumption, lung fever, pneumonia, rheumatism, infant deaths, railroad accident, and even one case of cholera.

Still on the subject of water, ladies were warned not to wear the fashionable "trails" or street-dragging trains on their garments. If they walked down the street the dress would soon be soaked and muddy a foot from the bottom hem.

The high waters and muddy roads cut off the coal supplies from across the river. The only vehicles that crossed the bridge were the Marshall stagecoach and a doctor in his horse and buggy. The river had risen 26 inches in 24 hours and was still on the rise. Maple sugar-making was nearly a failure that season.

Downtown suffered a disastrous fire that destroyed the store and dwelling of the Strouse family. The whole family had to jump out of a rear window to escape the flames that consumed his boot and shoe business.

The next day the "Stream Skuyrts" were called out to fill the four cisterns pumped dry to subdue the fire. The water was forced up from the river, which was much cheaper than hauling it by wagon.

Three marriage licenses had been issued since the last newspaper publication. It seems Harmon Quass, a German with $2,000 worth of property met Mattie Gray at the Post Office. She was described as "a female whose character is not above reproach, nor unknown to the police court." To make a long story short, it was love at first sight, they got married in the clerk's office, and caught the next train to his home in Illinois.

The other two happy couples were Alexander F. Shaw and Martha Allen, and George W. Fowler and his bride Nancy V. Sparks.

Other news reported that the Wabash & Erie Canal from Terre Haute to Toledo was in good repair and navigation was to be opened about the middle of April 1868. The steamer Romeo had to go to the docks at Evansville for repairs and inspection. The steamer Mason had arrived from northern ports during the past week.

Small bells had been ordered to be attached to the horses and mules of the local street cars. The tinkle, tinkle of these bells gave timely notice to pedestrians of their approach.

Citizens of Terre Haute were also warned in this 120-year-old newspaper that "this is the last week for the payment of city taxes before the penalty of 10 percent is attached!"

Who was mayor in 1868? G.F. Cookerly had that honor. His office was in the City Building on Third Street between Main and Ohio streets. The 10 city councilmen were S.K. Allen, N. Andrews, L.A. Burnett, A.L. Chamberlin, Thomas Dowling, T.E. Lawes, W.R. McKeen, D.W. Minshall, Louis Seeburger and V.A. Sparks.

McKeen was the president of the Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad with the passenger depot at Union Depot, corner of 10th and Main streets. Here one could buy a ticket to stations between the two points. Prairie was only four miles; Woodville, eight; Cloverland, 10; Staunton, 12; Williams, 13; Newberg, 14; Brazil, 16.

From Brazil eastward, there were Weaver's, Harmony, Eaglesfield, Reelsville, Hamrick's, Greencastle Junction, Fillmore, Coatsville, Amo, Summit, Clayton, Belleville, Cartersburg, Plainfield, Oak Plain, Bridgeport, Fairview, and on to Indianapolis, then 73 miles distant.

Community Affairs File
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Salty doings — in news and spice — sprinkled pages of local newspaper

Clark, Dorothy (Tribune-Star) Is MAY 0 8 1988

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Early newspapers give us some insight into pioneer days. What did the hardy pioneers raise, buy and sell? How many appeared briefly, then moved on?

Liquors are advertised and sold, temperance societies are organized; canals are under consideration, steamboats are plying the Wabash as far up as Lafayette; estates are being probated, bills for divorce being filed, land advertised for sale. There is no mention of the establishing of either churches or schools.

Published weekly in Vigo County, the Western Register of Terre Haute contained legal notices from Martin, Clay, Vermillion and Parke counties in the issue of Jan. 7, 1830. This was Vol. 6, No. 38, according to the editor, Amory Kinney.

W.C. and D. Linton advertised that they had just received 200 kegs of gunpowder to be sold at the Louisville price with the addition of carriage. Persons wishing a half or quarter keg could be accommodated. They had 13 chests of fresh teas for sale by the chest or half chest.

Rose & Warren offered Kenhawa Salt, 200 barrels of the best quality just arrived by Steam Boat Highland. They also had 1,500 pounds of lead, cost and carriage.

Under entertainment, E. Dole respectfully tendered his compliments to his former customers and the public generally, and informed them that he had again taken possession of his Old Stand where he was ready to wait upon those who may favor him with a call. No pains would be spared to render guests comfortable, and their stay with him agreeable.

His table would be served with the best products of the country. His bar was furnished with the choicest liquors and his stable with a variety of provander in abundance, and capable and faithful persons would always be in attendance.

A petition for divorce was filed by C.R. Brown, solicitor for Catharine Patterson, against the defendant John Patterson in 1829 in the Martin Circuit Court. He had left the state.

Loran Burget vs. Daniel Pucket in Vigo County was a writ of Domestic Attackment. The trial was set in the office of J.P. A. Linney.

Thomas Wheeler of Clay County, Washington Township, had taken up one bay mare supposed to be 14 hands and 3 inches high, 4 years old next spring, some white on her forehead with some few white hairs on her back, black legs, mane and tail, appraised to $35 by Richard and Daniel Walker. J.P. William Carpenter was in charge.

In Sullivan County, Thomas Riggs, Turman Township, had taken up a dark bay horse, 15½ hands high, 14 years old, appraised to $25 by Jesse Davis and Lemuel Parker. David Wilkins, J.P., attested that this was a true copy from his estray book.

A Parke County resident, Charles Woolverton, notified all persons not to trust or harbor his wife, Jerutha (alias Ruth) on his account, as he was determined not to pay any debts of her contracting after Dec. 22, 1829, "for reasons well known."

Scott J. Cruft gave notice that all outstanding debts due him will be placed in the hands of an officer for collection.

John F. Cruft advertised he had 200 barrels of Kenhawa Salt. No. 1, inspected, very dry and white. He offered to take pork and whiskey in payment for salt at a good price. This was in Terre Haute.

A. Kinney announced that he had married Mr. (blank) Carr to Miss Margaret Allen of this (Vigo) county.

The death of Robert Caldwell at his residence in Honey Creek Township after a short and severe illness on Jan. 1, 1830, was announced.

Editor A. Kinney offered to accept wood in payment of a subscription to the Register. He also wanted 100 bushels of Stone Coal and 15 to 20 bushels of oats.

John D. Richardson was trying to hire two or three journeymen coopers. He offered good wages and constant employment. He preferred first-rate workmen, steady, industrious men, having a family.

David Clark (no relation) inserted a Public Notice for all persons (store keepers in particular) to not trade with or trust his wife, Lucy, "for she is deranged in mind and not a fit person to make contracts." He would not pay her bills as of Dec. 31, 1829.

The Register had been informed that on Christmas morning, 1829, a party of young men went to the house of an old man in the vicinity of Bruceville, Knox County, and annoyed him by firing guns and other mischievous arms. When they left, he followed and shot at them, his shot proved fatal, taking the life of a near relative. The old man was arrested and held to bail.

Still more shocking was the news story that John Russell of Nevins Township, Vigo County, killed his stepson, Thomas Roe, by stabbing him. It was said that Russell had for some years been in the habit of beating his wife, when he was in a state of intoxication and that Roe had frequently interfered in behalf of his mother. That Monday evening Roe was passing Russell's house — and so the tragic story goes.

Henry Shepherd advertised all sorts of hats warranted to be waterproof and of good quality at his store in Terre Haute. He would take beaver, otter, muskrat and mink furs in payment.

Very dim, and hard to read in the old newsprint were two marriage announcements: Nathan Reinfield to Miss Frances Nott; Nelson Markle to Miss Matilda Rexroth of Otter Creek on Jan. 10, 1830.

Community Vertical File
Vigo County Public Library
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Terre Haute in 1900

Town presented rosy picture 88 years ago

15 OCT 09 1988

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

When the Terre Haute Express celebrated its 77th anniversary, a 60-page souvenir edition was published and sold for 25 cents at all book shops. This edition has been used and re-used by newspaper reporters, students and researchers of local history.

In 1900, Terre Haute was described as a "picturesque city," dotted with immense store buildings, churches and schools of modern design and of great architectural elegance. This last statement is debatable.

Travelers approaching the city saw first the tall grain elevators of Bartlett, Kuhn & Co., the largest in the state; the tower of the Union Station, which cost $100,000; the tower of the Normal School, which cost $250,000; and the dome of the courthouse, built of solid stone at the cost of $375,000.

Visitors to the city could see the Rose Orphan Home, costing $130,000, and the Rose Polytechnic Group. Downtown, they would see one of the most ornate hotels in the state, the Terre Haute House, and the new Filbeck Hotel. The massive government building cost $150,000, and the Rose Dispensary, an office building with a stone front.

Eighty-eight years later the only building mentioned above still standing is the courthouse. The Hulman building was the only other downtown structure still standing. The Root Store was demolished, and Roots now is located in Honey Creek Square.

In 1900 the city still could boast of many large residences with wide lawns, flower beds, fountains and huge forest shade trees. Today, few of the fine old homes are in their original elegant condition. They've been torn down, cut up into small apartments, boarding houses, or college fraternity houses.

The fountains are gone, and only a few of the fine old trees shade pedestrians. Their branches shelter faster moving sports cars instead of horse-drawn buggies.

The souvenir edition claimed that "Terre Haute has never been a boom town. From the very beginning its values have steadily increased without remarkable fluctuations." Just before 1900 the country had suffered a financial panic, but its effects had not been felt here. Real estate was still moving, tax rates were low, and building was keeping ahead of any population growth.

Terre Haute was considered on a par with any other Hoosier city when it came to brilliant social seasons for the "swell society sets." However, newcomers were welcomed and could take their place in the community according to their abilities and conduct.

The biggest differences between 1900 and 1988 are in the manufactories. Then we had the largest hominy mills in the world, half a dozen large flouring mills with a combined daily capacity of 2,500 barrels. There were three distilleries which produced 125,000 gallons of spirits every 24 hours, one of which was the largest single maker of whiskey in the world. The Terre Haute Brewing Co. produced 300,000 barrels of beer each year.

A tool-and-shovel works turned out 30,000 dozen each of forks and shovels. A car manufacturing plant employed 1,000 men building freight cars for many of the leading railway companies of the country.

Two iron mills employed 500 to 600 men. One of the bakeries of the National Biscuit Co. supplied a greater portion of the central states. A new glass plant employing 80 to 150 men added to the city's commerce in 1900.

In addition, there were spoke and hub factories, nine brick and tile makers, clothing and overall factories, stone works, stave and heading factories, two artificial ice plants, besides dozens of smaller concerns using a large amount of both mineral and agricultural material.

The McKinley administration was credited with "the revival of industrial activity . . . felt no more decidedly anywhere than in Terre Haute. Through the financial panic of 1893, the merchants pursued the most conservative and careful methods . . . and when prosperity again came they were in a position to branch out in every line and to take advantage of the first impulse which swept over the country . . . business is at its height, everything is moving, every man willing to work has a job, people are in good humor and optimistic for the future."

Taking a look back to 1900 and this rosy picture, it can be noted that *all* of the above listed industries have died out or moved away. Other manufacturers have filled the gaps, but the boom of 88 years ago is gone forever.

Terre Haute's largest industry is Indiana State University. The next largest source of employment and business revenues is its trading centers — the reason the town was originally founded in this particular spot on the map. Without our drawing power to sell, feed and entertain the population in all surrounding counties, this town would have died completely years ago.

What will be written about Terre Haute in the year 2000?

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Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Clark, Dorothy

City was busy 100 years ago

From the muddy streets to barroom brawls, newspapers reported it all

DEC 18 1988

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

What was going on in Terre Haute just over a century ago? The Terre Haute Express covered the local news in great detail in those days, and wanted to know where the street commissioner was. North Ninth Street was simply terrible, and if anyone wanted to see mud they should go out East Main Street.

The City Council was thinking of placing catch basins in the Poplar Street sewer after its completion, but the editor doubted if the sewer would be large enough to carry off so much water.

An Indianapolis man asked, "What is the matter with you Terre Haute people?" He commented to a street car driver, "Your streets are muddier than I ever saw them before."

The column "City in Brief" urged readers to "Pay your taxes and save the penalty." The Baptist Church was holding a social. The elevator received three carloads of new corn (this was in October).

C.P. Staub started his Herdic line on Sixth Street again. The rink was holding three-night tournaments, and St. Benedict's Church netted about $600 from its fair. John Sidel of the Shafer House decided to quit business. Terre Haute coopers could get jobs in Chicago, and the Bramble Lock Works was going into production. The planing mill machinery of the late Thomas B. Snapp was sold.

Property on Liberty Avenue was selling well. Dr. Crapo's new residence on South Third was nearly completed, and a policeman shot a poisoned dog on South Fourth Street.

The town drunk, Little Wesley Wilcox, was taken to jail for safekeeping. The colored debating club held its regular meeting at the A.M.E. Church. George W. Sparks had picked up a cow and calf which he thought might have been stolen.

The Macksville and St. Mary's free gravel road was delayed yet another year. George Marold was arrested for stealing George Smith's watch. Clark Alvis, the switchman who lost both of his legs, was now able to sit up.

Dr. Pence was thinking about building a fine residence on the site of his present one. The first brick house built in Terre Haute was on the corner of First and Mulberry streets.

Burt Rockwell's awning at his East Main Street store was riddled by the wind. Work on the Conant & Sons' Mill was suspended because the machinery had not arrived.

Farmers were offering 5 to 6 cents per bushel for corn huskers, and still there were loafers. The grand jury in October was expected to return a number of indictments. Thieves had stolen a valuable hunting dog from U.R. Jeffers and one from Sam Flaid.

Thomas Dobbs, an employee of the National House, and Laura Harris were married. A change in the pastorate of St. Benedict's was expected. The mayor received sealed proposals for the removal of dead animals from the city limits.

Mr. Genung stated that he would start a paper barrel factory here if the Iowa City paper mill is removed to this city. More wild game, especially quails, was reported in the area this fall than for many years, and the gun dealer was smiling. A flock of wild geese flew south over the city, and cold weather was predicted.

Crime was rampant in the city in the 1880s. Burglars entered Ferris' Drug Store and took several boxes of pills, money and cigars. An Otter Creek farmer reported the theft of trousers and vest from his house, and Fouts & Hunter had lost a horse they had rented to a bill collector.

A gold-headed cane was presented to Frank Creed of the northern rolling mill by his friends. H. Hulman shipped four carloads of his Dauntless coffee to Indianapolis, besides shipments to Davenport, Iowa, Louisville, Fort Wayne and Peoria.

Dr. Gerstmeyer was down on the Ohio River fishing and having great luck. He sent 500 pounds of fish and 400 pounds of game to Ed Roach.

The editor hoped that Chief Fasig's Halloween orders would keep the boys from enjoying themselves. The police chief ordered all boys arrested if caught ringing doorbells, throwing cabbages against a neighbors' door, and changing street signs around. Neither boys nor local news have changed too much in the past century, have they?

The man with the patent on a fire escape was demonstrating its use at the Filbeck House by swinging himself out of a third-story window. However, he managed to swing into a second-story window, smashing the glass, and spoiling the hopes for sales of his machine.

Mr. Steinmehl and his friends celebrated the 31st anniversary of his arrival in America. He came from Coln, Germany.

Jailor Pritchard was having a time with an overcrowded jail. Two inmates needed hospital care, and he had to stay up all night to care for them, along with 35 prisoners. The editor, George M. Allen, believed all sick or injured should be taken to the hospital for care as the jail was not equipped to take care of them.

Dr. J.R. Crapo, secretary of the board of health of Vigo County, was ordered to find out the hygienic condition of every schoolhouse in the county and report back to the board.

Considerable "slugging" was going on in the West Main Street area. A man was knocked down the stairway of the St. Clair House, one was thrown out the door of a nearby saloon, and a drunk got badly pounded on the corner of First and Main streets.

On a lighter note, Hunter's steam laundry employed an experienced operator to mend gentlemen's shirts and trousers, sew on buttons, and replace neckbands and cuffs, all free of charge.

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Curious clippings

Clark, Dorothy

Old newspaper ads reveal plenty about marketplace

T APR 0 9 1980

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Old newspapers have been a hobby of mine for many years. It's remarkable how many uses our ancestors could find for them.

Rooms were papered with them to help insulate underneath wallpaper. Renovators tell of finding the daily news as they carefully steam away layers of wallpaper to find bare plaster.

Family portraits were padded with folded newspaper to fit the heavy-wooden frames so highly prized by antique collectors. Dishes and outmoded household items were wrapped in newspapers before being packed away in the attic in wooden boxes and barrels. They were used as extra padding behind mirrors to protect the fragile mercury coating.

And then there are the clippings that turn up in every family Bible, county atlas, almanac, etc., the durable books that were passed down from generation to generation. The clippings of obituaries usually can be traced to a family member, in-law, good friend or neighbor.

Interesting, if useless, information gleaned from a Terre Haute paper of 1861 included the retail market news. One could buy potatoes for 60 cents a bushel, lard for 12 cents a pound, eggs for 8 cents a dozen, and (take your choice) either whiskey or vinegar at 20 cents a gallon.

Three kinds of coffee were listed: Rio at 14 cents a pound, Lagyura at 16 cents, and Java at 20 cents. Beeswax, candles and feathers were only a few of the items not listed 128 years later.

At least two dentists were available in town: S. B. Smith, between Third and Fourth on Ohio, and C. O. Lincoln, 101 Wabash St., over Bartlett's Bookstore.

The Western Union Telegraph office "connecting with all lines in the U.S. and British provinces," was located in Commercial Row, corner of Fourth and Wabash, over the Southern Bank with the entrance on Fourth Street. (Note: This is now the Saratoga Restaurant building.)

J. H. Turner and William McKeen were commission merchants dealing in grain, flour and salt. Their warehouse was on the Wabash & Erie Canal, near the Terre Haute & Richmond and Evansville & Crawfordsville railroad depots.

Back in 1861, if a local resident wanted to send a letter by Pony Express, he could apply at the office of the American Express Co., northeast corner of Fourth and Ohio streets. Agent M. S. Wasson advised that "letters and telegrams received at his office would be forwarded to St. Joseph, Mo., with promptness and would arrive in San Francisco in ten days." Letters weighing a half-ounce or under cost $2, and another $2 was added for every additional half-ounce or fraction.

To read the newspapers of 1861 intelligently, it was necessary to know the different downtown locations by name and where they were. For example, Commercial Row was on the south side of Wabash, between Fourth and Fifth streets. The advertisement for Philip Nicoloy's premium art gallery stated that it was "upstairs over No. 109 Commercial Row." Simon Cory operated a hardware business at No. 103. Oliver Bartlett was the bookseller and stationer at No. 101, and James R. Tillotson was the watchmaker and jeweler at No. 99.

Mechanic's Row also was on Wabash, but between Fifth and Sixth. At the corner of Sixth and Wabash one could find G. W. Patrick & Co., druggists. J. U. Patrick ran the grocery store at No. 11, and W. A. Griswold, hardware, was at No. 8.

At No. 87, Warren's Block on Wabash, was the G. Weiss & Co., who "were prepared to furnish by the barrel or bottle for the family London or Philadelphia Porter, Scott, Dayton, or Madison Ale, and Detroit Cider."

The sheriff in 1861 was Samuel Connor. Names mentioned in legal notices and sheriff's sales included: Judson Loomis who was suing Ezekiel Birdseye; Isaac Balding, William H. King, Charles Bentley, James Ray; and Dorothea Blinn, administratrix of her late husband, Horace Blinn's estate, who was suing James H. Jeans.

Typical of the lengthy advertisements in those days was the one of Undertaker Isaac Ball who would "most respectfully inform those in want of anything in his line, that he is prepared to furnish funerals on short notice.

"I have now on hand the best assortment of Undertaking Trimmings ever brought to this city. Being the oldest Undertaker in the city, I trust I can give better satisfaction than has ever been given in this city.

"I can be found at my old stand, corner of Second and Cherry streets, where I keep on hand, constantly, Marshall's Casket Cases, the only case now in general use. Wooden coffins of all kinds. Cloth and velvet covered coffins — in a word, everything in the Undertaking line will be promptly attended to, either by night or day. Bodies preserved any length of time desired. Carriages furnished to order."

Another undertaker in town then was J. C. Walter, at 142 Main St., between Fifth and Sixth streets. How he dared to fight the competition is a puzzle.

The result of the following advertisement would cause a stampede in 1989. "I will set a free lunch at my Restaurant every morning from 10½ to 12 o'clock, when I will be pleased to see my friends and patrons — signed, C. Kern."

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From the mailbag

*Clark, Dorothy

War, weather and an old-fashioned newspaper spat

NOV 19 1989

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The mailbag provides this week's column — a mixed bag of Civil War happenings, the 1913 tornado and flood, and a rap on the knuckles of the old Terre Haute Star from an Indianapolis newspaper.

For my files came a letter dated Feb. 22, 1864, written by Capt. A. Sharra, commanding the First Indiana, Glyndon, Md., to local resident Origen B. Soules, and I quote:

"Dear Sir — Your letter of the 15th making inquiry in regard to Oscar Soules is received. He was picked up in company with John Strain by a Gunboat while they were going up the river a short distance and were taken to Alexandria and reported as deserters.

"I made a statement of the case requesting their return which was complied with and they are both here in camp, hale and hearty."

What happened to young Oscar is unknown, but a quick outline of the Soules family is of interest. Earliest one of the family found in Vigo County was William Soule Sr. (as he spelled it) whose will of 1821 named his family, four sons, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

William's daughter, Eleanor, married Origen Brigham, a surgeon in the War of 1812. Her brother, William Jr., gave this name to one of his sons, Origen B. Soules, mentioned in the above letter.

Memories and family accounts of the 1913 tornado and flood continue to come in. Mable E. Baker of Arcadia related that her family, Charles and Valera Mae Sandberg and children, didn't know about the severe weather until the following day. They felt the house (located next door to the Fromme Lumber Yard at Seventh and Hulman streets) shake and all gathered in one room and slept through the night. The next morning Mrs. Fromme came over to see how they weathered the storm and found the front porch steps missing, the backyard fence torn down, and the shed destroyed. Mrs. Fromme took in all the homeless and needy survivors.

When Uncle Henry arrived from his nightshift, he couldn't understand how the family managed to sleep through the tornado. One lady who lived in a brand new home in the same block was screaming about losing part of her roof. One of their school chums was killed.

Papa Sandberg was a glass blower who came to Terre Haute with his wife, brother, and twin girls when Turner Glass Factory came here. This family was more afraid of the lightning striking than they were of the rain and the roaring thunder. They had no thought of a disastrous tornado.

The Indianapolis Star devoted a two-column editorial many years ago taking the Terre Haute Star to task, claiming that the Wabash Valley was not Indiana, and Terre Haute was not the Wabash Valley.

According to the editorial, "Terre Haute is a growing and prosperous city commercially. It is known chiefly from the fact that it has the largest distillery in the world; educationally, because of the splendid Normal School (now Indiana State University); politically, by reason of her factional fights among all political parties; religiously, because of her numerous and magnificent churches; morally, as the most wide open town in the state; and just now as possessing the most virulent type of smallpox extant.

"Notwithstanding all this," the editorial continues, "Terre Haute must be reminded that she is not the whole of the Wabash Valley. There is Lafayette, Attica, Covington, Montezuma, Clinton, not to mention Newport and Summit Grove, and further down is Vincennes, the oldest town in the state. All these towns have and have had their famous men who have contributed to the fame of the Wabash Valley."

The editorial continues with the names of famous Hoosiers, even including Thompson, Voorhees, Nelson, Cruft, Rose, Lamb, Debs and Ehrmann and their contributions.

It goes on to say, "We do not wish to detract one iota from the just fame of Terre Haute. There she is. Behold her, distillery and all, and there she will remain forever ... There should be no rivalry ... Paris is France, and the Wabash is Indiana. Long before Paul Dresser of Terre Haute was born, Longfellow immortalized the Wabash in classic verse.

"And Tippecanoe and Fort Harrison and Vincennes were historic battle names years and years before the 'Banks of the Wabash' was set to music. The fame of the Wabash is secure and no amount of contention can add or detract from its name."

Okay, already. Who's arguing? The old mailbag furnishes much food for thought.

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Community Affairs File

Hot off the presses

Saturday Evening Mail earned wide reputation

Ts AUG 19 1990

Clark Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

On July 2, 1870, the first number of the Saturday Evening Mail came off the press. The publisher, O.J. Smith, had previously been associated with C. W. Brown of the Saturday Evening Gazette.

The publication office was on the northside of Main Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets, in one of the buildings later razed to make way for the Havens & Geddes store.

Smith was a member of one of the oldest families of the county, and had served with distinction during the Civil War as first lieutenant of Company B, 71st Indiana, retiring with the rank of major.

He was a vigorous writer and made the Mail a success from the start. He sold it to Perry S. Westfall in March 1872, and for a number of years was connected with the Daily Express.

He became attracted by the doctrines of the Greenback Party, and transferred his allegiance to that faith, taking with him the Express, leaving the Republicans without an official press organ in Terre Haute.

His zeal for the cause, his convincing style, and his own personality led many an old-time Republican to forsake his party. Circulation picked up at the newspaper.

With the Greenback craze at its highest, he moved to Chicago and established the Chicago Express, which also had a lot of political clout.

Smith was one of the founders of the American Press Association which furnished "plate" matter to newspapers. This service made its founders wealthy. In 1897, Smith was its president, with his main office in New York City. He lived at Dobb's Ferry, a beautiful resort on the Hudson River.

George W. Cummings, who was city editor of the Mail when it was founded, was secretary of the company and lived in New York.

Harvey O. Carr, the son of Thomas B. Carr, was foreman of the composing room of the new paper. He moved to Grand Rapids, Mich., in the 1880s and became superintendent of police.

The compositors of the paper were Jacob W. Clifton, later a Tribune printer; William Stansil, who moved to Buffalo, N.Y.; Miss Emma Baber, the first female compositor employed in Terre Haute; and Emil Langen, the "cub" or "printer's devil," was a bookkeeper in St. Louis in 1897.

William Fritz, foreman of the Globe Printing House, was pressman on the first edition of The Mail, which was printed on the presses of the Terre Haute Printing Co.

On March 2, 1872, Perry S. Westfall, who had been connected with the newspaper business in Terre Haute since 1857, when he became foreman of the Daily Express composing room, purchased the Mail from Smith. Just before the purchase, Westfall was business manager, local editor, bookkeeper, and advertising solicitor of the Daily Express, while he maintained a partial supervision over the mechanical department. Such industry brought success to the Mail.

For 17 years Westfall owned the Mail, making it known over the whole country. He died Jan. 17, 1889. After his death, the paper was run by his eldest son, Edwin P. Westfall, who had been connected with the paper from an early age and was familiar with all departments.

William H. Duncan, former editor of the Daily Express, worked with him in the editorial department. He also was hired by the City Council to examine the books and accounts of city officials.

Douglas H. Smith was editor of the Daily News before his untimely death in 1896. W. Arnold Layman, a Rose Poly grad who had a natural aptitude for the newspaper business, gave it up to devote himself to the study of electricity, working for a St. Louis firm.

On Aug. 1, 1893, the firm of Duddleston & Piepenbrink assumed control of the Mail until Feb. 22, 1897, when F.J. Piepenbrink retired and A.C. Duddleston became the sole manager.

The veteran printer, C. W. Brown, was the proprietor of the Globe Printing House in 1897, at the southeast corner of Fifth and Ohio streets. With W.H. Buckingham, he started the first steam printing office in Terre Haute, running it in connection with a book and stationery store.

Brown had much experience in every phase of the printing business, and had edited and published several newspapers here and at Greencastle.

He started the Globe Printing House in a basement on Sixth Street across the street from the old post office. As business increased, he finally occupied the entire building before he moved to Fifth and Ohio.

Gus A. Conzman learned the book binder's trade. After several years he became interested with E.A. Hess in the old Bartlett Bindery where he remained until 1885.

Conzman retired from the firm to become deputy under county Treasurer James Cox. In 1888, he was nominated by the Democrats for country treasurer and was elected by a handsome majority. He was re-elected in 1890. When he retired, he accepted the position of cashier at the Vigo County National Bank and was still there in 1897.

Biographies of more than 90 years ago introduce new faces to the roster of movers and shakers in Terre Haute.

Community Affairs File

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

The news of 1847

★ Clark, Dorothy

Railroad survey, war with Mexico, and a lost cow

TS NOV 25 1990

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

According to the Wabash Courier, a weekly Terre Haute newspaper, published Dec. 4, 1847, a railroad survey was being carried on in the community.

"On Monday last," according to the news item, "we understood some tents were struck in Mr. Rose's field, a little east of the Prairie House.

"On repairing to the spot," it was reported, "we found the Corps of Engineers, employed for the Terre Haute and Richmond Rail Road in running a line from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, about sitting down to a comfortable dinner, having just completed the survey.

"The Corps consisted of about 15 with Capt. Morris at their head. The corps have been on the line for some seven weeks — ran two lines from Indianapolis to Greencastle — one direct, some distance south of Danville, the other through Danville.

"The direct line from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, leaving Danville to the north, will measure about 73 miles. The other running through Danville, about 74 miles.

"The route as surveyed, ends at the National Road, nearly opposite the frame house, a short distance east of the Canal Basin.

"The line from the point nearly northeast, is said to be straight for eight miles, crossing Otter Creek near half a mile below Markle's Mill.

"The route, altogether, is represented by the Engineers as decidedly favorable. Grades easy, and curvatures open, no grade over 40 feet per mile and few grades requiring so much.

"It is said a large portion of the work may be graded at a cheap rate. The portion in the vicinity of Greencastle will be the heaviest work. The summit level near Eel River is 312 feet higher than the end of the line at Terre Haute."

The reporter supposed "a regular report will be made, when we have no doubt it will be found that the project of this road is entirely practicable. Of its expediency we hear not a dissenting vote. The utility of the road none can question. It can hardly be possible that those interested should longer delay in the way of subscription for stock."

This 1847 newspaper was filled with reports of the Mexican War. Editorially the paper was not in favor of the war and sided with Henry Clay that it should be stopped.

Because of the weather in December 1847, the Wabash River continued to fall, but two steamers, the Western and Pink, had tied up at the wharfs at Terre Haute and then passed on down river.

About 2,300 hogs had been slaughtered since suitable cold weather set in. Sales were good, and the price "does not vary much from $2.25 to $2.50 for hogs averaging 200 pounds."

Market prices in Terre Haute were listed as "lard three cents a pound; butter 15 cents; wheat 75 cents a bushel; corn in the ear 18 cents a bushel; oats 13; rye 33; barley 50; timothy seed $1.50 bushel; clover $5; and flaxseed 65 cents.

Potatoes were 25 cents a bushel; onions 30; dried apples 75; and dried peaches $1.50. Flour sold for $4.75 from the wagon per barrel, and $5 from the store.

Cornmeal sold for 25 cents a bushel; feathers 35 cents a pound; hay $4 a ton; vinegar 15 cents a gallon; beeswax 25 cents a pound; candles 10 cents a pound box, 12 cents by the mould; No. 2 grade mackerel sold for $13 per barrel, while the No. 3 grade was only $11 per barrel.

Dealers wanted to buy good raccoon, mink, otter, fox, wild cat, house cat, muskrat, opossum and deer skins.

C. F. Schaal advertised for his lost cow described as a "middle-aged small cow, reddish color, with some white on the sides, star between the horns, and short legs, strayed from the subscriber about five weeks ago. $1.50 will be paid for the return of said cow."

What else was going on in Terre Haute in 1847? The city treasurer reported receiving $15 from the use of the town hearse; $300 from grocery licenses; $42.11 in fines; $96 from market house stalls; $45 for shows and exhibitions; $180.55 from sale of graveyard lots; $27.50 from rent of the town hall; and the collection for the school fund showed a total increase of over a thousand dollars in the past year.

This school fund was loaned out in amounts less than $100 at 7 percent, 8 percent and 10 percent interest. The Sexton reported burials of four adults and five children.

New Year's Eve was eventful that year. It seems that boys threw firecrackers under the feet of the horses of the Northern Stage causing runaways. In fact, firecrackers were let off all night, causing much confusion.

Readers must remember that the early settlers from the southern states were accustomed to celebrating Christmas with firecrackers, and the leftovers were still in use on New Year's Eve.

The editor had much to say about the vandalism. Window blinds were torn from their hangers and broken around the courthouse square. Most of the downspouts and water pipes that could be reached were torn down and carried away. Town Council offered a reward of $20.

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VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Tracking the news

Historians use newspapers to study local events

1 S DEC 1 6 1990

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The old newspapers were full of information, useful and otherwise. If they had all been used to wrap up the garbage, make the windows shine, underlay the carpet, and tidy the bottom of the bird cage, historians would be without knowledge of local events.

A century and a half ago, a complete list of steamboats running on the Wabash River to Terre Haute or ports above was published. During low stages of navigation, there were many boats that, "from their heavy draught of water, could not come up higher than the rapids." This class of boat is not included.

Many of the boats on the list made several trips, some as many as eight or 10 each. They included the Rialto, Visitor, Tippecanoe, Keokuk, Gem, Salem, Fox, Tuscambia, Tide, Davy Crockett, Harry Tomplins, Julia Gratiot, Sandusky, and Dover.

Also, the Elizabeth, Orleans, Export, Exchange, Liley, Marion, Richmond, Loyal Hanna, Ontario, Rio, Iris, Sylph, Rochester, and William Paris, 28 in all.

Travelers needed to know about lodging, and the newspaper reported that the Terre Haute Hotel on North Second Street, run by Mathew Stewart, had just completed building a new two-story brick structure on the site of the former Stewart House which had burned down.

William McFadden had leased the National Hotel, "formerly known as the Eagle & Lion, kept by Capt. James Wasson" in late 1841. While it was unoccupied, it was remodeled, refurbished, etc.

A.L. Chamberlain offered his "valuable property for sale." Its location would certainly be very valuable today, 150 years later. It was described as "a house and lot situated immediately south of the Prairie House . . . a large frame, built of the very best materials, and finished in good style throughout." This would be downtown near Seventh and Wabash streets now.

The Spring Dale Steam Mill located five miles southeast of Terre Haute near the Louisville Road was advertising "sawing, grinding done to order, lumber of any description, etc." Henry Brasher took orders for this mill, according to its owner, William Mullen.

Asbury Chapel was brand new 150 years ago. The place of worship for the Methodist Episcopal Congregation of Terre Haute, it was 82 feet long, 46 feet wide, and 96 feet tall.

Classed as "one of the most splendid churches in Indiana," it was made possible by liberal contributions of the citizens of Terre Haute and Vigo County, and the leadership of the Rev. J.S. Bayless.

The first living giraffe, or camelleopard as it was described, ever exhibited in the United States was brought to Terre Haute 150 years ago. Everyone was urged to see the rare creature during the visit of a Menagerie and Circus.

The Equestrian Co. included in the performance was supposed to be the best in the world, and the celebrated Rivers Family were "astonishing the world with their truly wonderful performances." If we only knew what their talents were?

If a local resident desired to have a likeness of himself or a loved one, he was urged to see J.T. Sinnett, portrait and miniature painter from Europe, who would be in town for a brief time. His miniatures were painted on ivory and set in frames. The portraits in oil were "executed in all sizes, on panel or canvas."

Sinnett's studio was located in Ramage's building, opposite Dr. Ball's office, at the corner of First and Cherry streets.

An unusual advertisement of that day concerned midwifery. "Miss Elizabeth Smith, having located herself in the city of Terre Haute, offers her professional services to all who may wish to give her a call. She may at all times be found at her residence, near the lower ferry, second door from the corner."

An advertisement for their tiny school in 1841 was run by St. Mary-of-the-Woods College. It was captioned with this thought: "'Tis education that forms the mind; Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined."

Since there were no "funny papers" as we know them in newspapers 150 years ago, the readers got their chuckles from some questionable humor.

"Closing the account — 1 quart rum 12½ cents; 6 candles 6 cents; 1 quart rum 12½ cents; half-bushel potatoes 18 cents; starch 3 cents; 1 quart rum 12½ cents; 1 pint gin 18 cents; and the last item, 10 yards cotton for winding sheets, one dollar." Demon rum won again.

Another peculiar bit of humor was supposedly a recipe from an ancient medical book: "Get a large kettle of water. Let it come to a boil; then put your head into it and let it simmer for precisely half an hour; take out your head, shake all your teeth into a heap, pick out the decayed ones and throw them away. The sound ones you can put back again. If this won't cure you, nothing will!"

The editor of the Wabash Courier was right. There are advantages in taking a newspaper.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Life stories

~~Biography Collection~~ Clark, Dorothy

Newspaper biographies give glimpse into 1890s

Ts JAN 07 1990

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Local newspapers of the Gay Nineties frequently featured brief biographies and portraits of their most prominent or noteworthy citizens. Some times these afford the only glimpse we have of those long-gone people. Their life stories furnish a descendant with a clue as to their birthplace, and other family information.

For example, Joseph G. Elder, a native of Bedford County, Pa., came to Terre Haute in 1872, and found employment at James Hook's planing mill for eight years.

Next, he tried stock raising for several years in Linn County, Kansas, but gave it up to return to Terre Haute and become superintendent of the Terre Haute Street Railway Company, remaining in that position until the system became electrified and under new management.

Elder was secretary of two of the largest building and loan associations in Terre Haute — the Mechanics' Association, which had headquarters in I.H.C. Royse's office for six years; then he moved to the Wabash Savings, Loan and Building Association.

Also in the Wabash Association were Prof. Howard Sandison, S.C. McKeen, S.C. Beach, and W. W. Parson, president.

In 1897, Elder was the junior member of the firm of Foulkes & Elder. John Foulkes, senior member, was a native of Booseley, Shropshire, England. He came to this country in 1863, and after working in the iron business in Pittsburgh and Newcastle, Pa., and Akron, Ohio, he came to Terre Haute in 1874 to work for the Wabash Rolling Mill, which had just been started.

In 1883, he embarked in the real estate and insurance business and became quite successful. In addition to the rental business of many large estates, he represented several insurance companies, and was active in building and loan circles for more than 20 years prior to 1897.

August Fromme came to this country as a small boy, and began his working career in the grocery business in Terre Haute. He learned carpentering and contracting under Alfred Cortner.

As soon as he was ready, he went into competition with the older contractors in town, and soon made a name for himself.

He erected Collett School on North 10th Street; Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church; the downtown building later occupied by Kleeman Brothers; the new store of Levin Brothers on East Main Street; Germania Hall; and in 1897 had the contract for the new ground-floor theater — the Grand Opera House, southeast corner of Seventh and Cherry streets.

David W. Henry, the first Republican to be elected as Judge of the Superior Court of Vigo County (in 1894) since the court was organized, was born in 1852 in Columbiana County, Ohio.

His family moved to Greene County, Ind., and he attended public schools and Ascension Academy in Sullivan County, graduating in 1873.

He graduated from the Central Law School in Indianapolis in 1881. He entered the law office of Davis & Davis and was elected prosecuting attorney of Vigo County in 1884, and re-elected in 1886.

Henry was married in 1885 to Virginia Thompson, daughter of Col. Richard W. Thompson. They had two children, a boy named for his grandfather, and a daughter.

In 1897, it was announced that President McKinley had chosen D. W. Henry to succeed Judge Jump as revenue collector for this district.

George W. Faris, congressman for this district in 1897, was born in 1854 on a farm in Jasper County, Ind. His early life was spent on a farm, but in 1872 he entered Asbury University and graduated in 1877 by working his way through by teaching school and spending only part of each year with his class.

He then read law, and was admitted to the bar and became a practicing attorney before being elected to the 54th Congress as a Republican, and re-elected for a second term, according to his biography.

Abraham B. Felsenthal was born in Germany in 1849. His family came to America in 1861 and settled in Chicago. When a young man, he worked in the office of the Clerk of Cook County, Ill., before joining his brother Herman who later became president of the Bank of Commerce.

Abraham came to Terre Haute in 1871, as agent for Wheeler & Wilson, and later worked with Nicholas Katzenbach. While he worked with W. E. Hendrich in his abstract office, he studied law under Col. R. W. Thompson, and was admitted to the bar.

He became a member of the law firm of Felsenthal & Berry. He also served in the census bureau, land and forestry departments.

In 1881, while walking down the capitol steps, he received the injuries which compelled him to travel about in an invalid's chair for years.

After a year in a Chicago hospital, he returned to Terre Haute and was elected justice of the peace. He was the local attorney for the Typographical Union.

Felsenthal was much admired and loved by all who had contact with him. He was active in B'nai B'rith until his death in 1897.

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Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs

Publishing pioneers

City's first newspaper born from anti-slavery views

#Clark, Dorothy
TS FEB 18 1990

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Canadians who had served in the American army came to Indiana in 1817 to claim bounty lands appropriated for them by Congress. Among them was John Willson Osborn who went to Vincennes.

Osborn was a grandson of Col. John Willson, a British officer stationed in New York, who went to Canada at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

Osborn's father was Capt. Samuel Osborn of the British navy. Although his family was wealthy, young Osborn learned the printing trade in the office of the Upper Canadian Guardian & Freeman's Journal.

A member of Parliament from the Niagara district, the owner was decidedly pro-American in his views and was later killed in the American service near Fort Erie.

Young Osborn absorbed these American ideas, and at the beginning of the War of 1812, went across Lake Erie and joined Captain Mahar's company of "Irish Greens," for which he was disinherited by his grandfather.

Osborn took this in stride, and when he got through soldiering, he went into the newspaper business at Homer, N.Y. Later he started the Cortland Republican at Cortlandville, N.Y., where he married Ruby Bishop.

In June 1817, he arrived in Vincennes and found employment in the office of the Western Sun, where he became a partner and editor in a few weeks.

His anti-slavery views did not set well with those of Elihu Stout, the proprietor. They dissolved the partnership and Osborn became a farmer.

In 1819, Osborn was joined at Vincennes by his brother-in-law, Amory Kinney, native of Vermont, who had read law at Cortlandville in the office of Samuel Nelson, later a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Both Osborn and Kinney believed slavery in Indiana was illegal. They decided to make a test case with two lawyers, Col. George McDonald of New Jersey, the preceptor and father-in-law of Judge Isaac Blackford, who entered the practice at Vincennes in 1819; and Moses Tabbs, a son-in-law of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was admitted to the bar at Vincennes in 1818.

By an act of habeas corpus, the test was made on behalf of a mulatto woman named "Polly," held as a slave by Col. Hyacinthe Lasselle, principal tavern keeper at Vincennes. The suit was of a friendly nature, the defense conducted by Judge Jacob Call, later a representative in Congress.

The case presented the question of the old French slavery, Polly being the daughter of a negro woman who had been captured by the Indians in the Revolutionary War period.

The Circuit Court held her to be a slave, but the Supreme Court held that the people of Indiana had the power to abolish slavery, without regard to the Virginia Deed of Cession, and that "the framers of our Constitution intended a total and entire prohibition of slavery in this state."

This decision was made in July 1820 (170 years ago) and it created some resentment among slaveholders, who threatened vengeance against Osborn and Kinney, but no trouble resulted.

For some time a newspaper had been edited at Vincennes by Nathan Blackman which was not exactly anti-slavery, but was in opposition to the Western Sun.

Blackman died Dec. 19, 1821, and when his estate was settled, Kinney bought the printing office.

On Dec. 14, 1822, The Farmer & Mechanics Journal began publication with Osborn as editor. This newspaper was blatantly anti-slavery and was not popular in Vincennes. After six months, Osborn moved to the new town of Terre Haute, and on July 21, 1823, began publishing the Western Register & Terre Haute Advertiser, this city's first newspaper, in a two-story frame building on Second Street, second lot north of Main.

His newspapers at both places were ably conducted and had a great influence on the growing sentiment against slavery which was stimulated by the lawless acts of the Kentucky "roughs" and their Indiana allies.

According to Capt. Earle's diary, John W. Osborn was "quiet in manner and kind in speech. He was particularly opposed to horse-racing, then a custom of the country universally indulged in, from a moral point of view.

"He was particularly sensitive in regard to razor strops," wrote Earle, "but I never could understand why."

Osborn sold out his paper to Thomas Dowling in 1832, a gentleman who had different views in regard to horse-racing. Osborn was a candidate for sheriff in 1833 or 1834, but was not successful. He afterward published the Ploughboy in Greencastle.

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
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Oh, progress?

Newspaper records few changes in issues, times

Ts JUL 22 1990

CLARK, DOROTHY

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Local history and genealogy are closely-related subjects. For example, searching for an obituary in 1832, which is time-consuming work, I kept stumbling over fascinating bits of local happenings in the Wabash Courier.

On July 21 appeared the following notice: "We intend commencing the Wool Carding business in the course of two weeks on the Wabash River, three miles below Terre Haute at our river mill where we will receive and card wool at the customary prices" (signed T. & G.B. Bennet). They also agreed that "wheat and flaxweed will be received in payment."

Also, there was a notice stating Out-Lot 72 "near Terre Haute, containing about 65 acres of land (this location would be in the Krumbhaar district now) on which is situated a Steam Saw-Mill, recently built, the Engines and fixtures entirely new. The Mill has been in operation for the last three months, and has done a very fair business."

This property was for sale or lease, along with "a dwelling house, and, connected with it, a Store Room on said land, at a convenient distance from the Mill. The above property is well situated for business; it fronts on the Wabash River, and is distant from Terre Haute about three-fourths of a mile.

"There is also about 100 acres of valuable wood-land, situated in the Southeast Quarter, Section 29, and the West Fraction of Section 28 in Township 12 North, Range 9 West, laying on the west side of the Wabash, and nearly opposite said Out-Lot, which will be sold with the above property." James Farrington was the Agent for the heirs of George Miller, deceased.

In the same issue of the old newspaper was the announcement that "B. M. Harrison opened a new grocery store on the south side of the public square in his Brick Building, where he offers for sale unusually low prices on an extensive and complete assortment of groceries, consisting of — Foreign and Domestic Liquors, Teas, Sugar and Coffee, Paints, Oils and Dye Stuffs, Glass and Queensware, Spades, Shovels and Trace Chains, Cordage, Shad & Mackerel, Asst. Cod-Fish, Herring and other articles."

According to the notice, the partnership of Chauncey Rose and Chauncey Warren was dissolved, and "all persons having unsettled accounts with the firm are requested to call and close same." In this business transaction, Warren bought the business from Rose and elected to stay in the store business alone.

John F. Cruft notified the public that he had "just erected a Fire Proof Powder Magazine adjoining the town, and will receive and store Powder on liberal terms." The exact whereabouts of this venture was not given.

Coal diggers were wanted immediately. "Persons to dig coal, and several Flat Boats for the conveyance of coal to New Orleans. Employment and favorable contracts for building boats may be had by applying to Thompson & Condit."

One week later the Courier advertised that Thompson & Condit had opened a store "at the house formerly occupied by Samuel McQuilkin, corner of Wabash and Market streets, in the town of Terre Haute." They sold dry goods, hardware, Queensware and groceries at this Third and Wabash location.

The Misses E. and M. Harris, "recently from the East, propose to open a school on Monday, the 2nd of July, for the instruction of Youth, and flatter themselves, as they have had some experience, that they can give satisfaction to parents and guardians.

"The following branches will be taught: reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, grammar, history, rhetoric, composition, marking, needlework, etc. Terms of tuition from $1.50 to $3 per quarter."

The Courier stated that George W. Harris began the watch and clock repairing business and job work in that line — 158 years ago this June. His notice stated that his place of business would be "one door south of Doctor Modesitt's Drug Shop, where those who may present him with work, will not, in his opinion, go away dissatisfied."

Barton S. Mauzey warned everyone not to harbor or give credit to his estranged wife, Henrietta.

J. B. Richardson of York, Ill., advertised "100 barrels of good whiskey for sale at 31½ cents a gallon." If the order was accompanied by cash, Richardson would ship the whiskey to any part of the Wabash." (Note: this gentleman was an ancestor of Juliet Peddle, local architect.)

The summer months of 1832 were obviously difficult for married couples because nearly every issue of the Courier had a notice like the Mauzeys mentioned above. Having complaints were John L. Monett, Isaiah Wilson against his wife, Sarah, and Richard Skipath against his son, Nathaniel, who had left home.

People were up in arms about President Andrew Jackson's veto (or his refusal to sign) the appropriation of $20,000 for improvement of the Wabash River. An Anti-Veto meeting was planned at the courthouse. The 1832 newspapers were full of editorials, letters to the editor, and communications from Washington, D.C., about the proposed improvement of the river and a new bridge over the Wabash here at Terre Haute.

And here we are, 158 years later, still talking about improving the old Wabash, and we've got three bridges near Terre Haute and are planning to tear down one and build two more. Oh, progress?

Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

One man + three votes = jail

Privileges of city life extended to non-taxpayers

Clark, Dorothy
Ts MAR 24 1991

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In 1855, local residents could read a newspaper published every evening in "Welch's new block on Fourth Street opposite the Post Office." It cost 10 cents a week, or $5 a year.

Early that year, the Terre Haute Daily American was owned by I.N. Coltrin and J.M. Prior. However, they soon sold their interests to I.M. Brown, former foreman of the Express with 23 years experience in newspaper work, and J.N. Silverthorn who became the new editor.

This newspaper continued a few more months until September 1855, when Silverthorn sold his half interest to R.N. Hudson also had purchased the Wabash Express printing office from M. Soule.

Hudson united the two newspapers under the name Wabash Express. Brown retained his half interest in the former American and continued to work with Hudson in the new business venture.

There were definite signs that the little town of Terre Haute was growing when the newspaper boasted of its 240 daily issues!

On May 9, the editor expounded his favorite theory by stating that the "corporate limits of this city has not been enlarged since 1838, and the population has so increased and extended that fully a third of our people have all the advantage and privilege of our city, and pay no tax as they live outside of our narrow limit.

"They enjoy the use of the markets, streets, schools, city society and the stated preaching of the Gospel with other blessings too numerous to mention, without bearing any portion of the burden," said the editor, " . . . only 1,000 votes were cast at our recent municipal election, which would indicate the size of Terre Haute as being less than it really is. Were the corporation line extended as it should properly be, the number of our voters would be increased one-third. Let the council carefully consider this subject, and at once."

On the subject of the number of voters in the 1855 city election, a visitor to our city from Cincinnati, one Joseph Wiggins, went to jail for voting three times. John Petre was arrested for attempting to procure illegal votes.

On August 4, the editor again pointed out "the evidences of the prosperity of our city were never more apparent and real than at present . . . the foundation is being laid for a large warehouse on the canal bank, immediately north of Wabash Street. Today we see hands at work, excavating the cellar of a new building between the canal and the Depot of the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad, which we were informed is designed for an eating house, to accommodate passengers who are passing over the roads . . . "

Chauncey Rose was having the pond in that locality filled up in 1855, and the editor considered this "a very desirable improvement in that vicinity."

The editorial continued with further building news. "By the Terre Haute House, already one of the largest and best conducted hotels in the State, we see heaps of material designed for future enlargement, and we are informed that Mr. Rose purposes erecting a large block upon Wabash Street, in front of the Terre Haute House next summer.

"East of the canal is situated the well-ordered foundry and machine shop of Mr. A. Holmes . . . East of the Depot of the Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad, dwelling houses, neat and well-finished, are springing up as if by magic, affording convenient and comfortable homes for the artisans and operatives attached to the railroad and the machine shops."

The editor continued on his favorite theme: "This will be no mean addition to our city when corporate limits are extended as they should be."

On the west side of town the Clark House had made several large additions and was planning more. This was located where the City Hall parking lot is now.

On the north side of town on the banks of the "ragin' canawl" the first signs of the gas works was apparent. A boat load of pipe had been landed in that vicinity. This new enterprise would make possible more adequate street lighting. Altogether, Terre Haute was growing up in 1855.

In fact, the city was becoming so sophisticated that on May 14, 1855, this announcement appeared: "Today the well-known Prairie House changes its name to Terre Haute House. A Rose by any other name will smell as sweet, as the poet says."

Next week's column will continue this account of the 1855 events of Terre Haute as reported in the Terre Haute Daily American.

Community Affairs File
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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

*Clark, Dorothy

Wabash yielded 60-pound catfish

Street repairs requested: ponds and lakes must go

TS MAR 31 1991

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Local news of 1855, as reported in the short-lived newspaper Terre Haute Daily American, predecessor of the Wabash Express, was the subject of last week's column and again today.

The column "Pen and Scissors" of May 7 stated that newly-elected Mayor Hook would deliver his inaugural address at the City Council meeting that night.

The Council also acted on a petition to have the Wabash & Erie Canal filled up from the north side of Mulberry Street south to Wabash. The bridge across the canal on Fifth Street was undergoing repairs.

On July 2, the Daily American carried an editorial entitled "Our Streets," and I quote: "We would like to call the attention of the City Council and the city, generally, to the subject of a thorough repair of our streets . . . In many parts of the city, after heavy rains, will be found reservoirs or pools of water of a greater or less extent — all nuisances in themselves, and all tending to affect the health of our citizens.

"Then, the appearance of the city, half covered with water. Let any one contemplate after a hard rain, the lake at the corner of Main and Fifth Street, one on Sixth, north of the Congregational Church, and the clusters of lakes and ponds, dotting the map of Sibleytown (formerly at Third and Locust), the one especially at the Depot of the Terre Haute & Alton Railroad (this brick building at Fourth and Tippecanoe was torn down in 1968), and then say these things are not a disgrace to the city."

In the summer of 1855, the local school trustees had purchased the northeast corner lot in Wilson's addition, and were preparing to build a school house 40 feet by 60 feet, two stories high. It was reported "a large lot of brick were already on the ground."

The location was considered good being as near the center of the southern part of the city as possible. This was named the Ross School, located on the southwest corner of Third and Oak streets. It later became a plumbing shop before being torn down in the Southwest Urban Redevelopment Project.

On Sept. 12, the newspaper noted that "the cutting down of National Road street, from First to Market streets, is a decided improvement. Many of the property holders who remonstrated at first appear to be well pleased with the alteration . . . one objection is it leaves the sidewalks too high for nearly two squares . . . it is hoped the Council does something before some unfortunate breaks his neck."

Not all the items in 1855 newspapers had to do with city improvements. On May 7, Elisha Sibley was thrown from his wagon near the corner of Fifth and Cherry when his horse became unruly.

The river was still rising, and there was 15½ feet of water in the channel. The canal boat, Key Stone, was up for bid at the auction rooms of Mr. Douglass on Fourth Street.

A warning was issued concerning counterfeit two dollar bills in circulation, as well as fraudulent $20 gold pieces. The coins were of the same circumference but thinner, and only valued at $13.50.

In 1855, brick sold for $5.50 per thousand. A catfish weighing 60 pounds was caught in the Wabash near town. A band of "gipsies" (the old newspaper's spelling, not mine) was "rusticating" in the vicinity of Macksville (now West Terre Haute). They were engaged in telling fortunes and other amusements peculiar to their race, said the editor.

In August, Dr. Clippenger informed the editor that the balloon which was sent up in the southern part of the city fell on his dwelling and set it on fire. Luckily the fire was put out before the house was badly damaged.

The editor believed "this is a dangerous sport, especially at this time of year, and should be stopped before further mischief is done."

Fahnestock's Match Factory also had a fire which destroyed all their stock of matches, but the building was saved.

The St. Charles Hotel, corner of Market and Mulberry, provided free omnibuses to and from the cars (railroad, that is), according to P.H. Monninger, proprietor.

Jamison & Terry opened a new grocery store at the corner of Market and Walnut streets. O.H. Protsman had fitted up an ice cream saloon on Fourth between Main and Cherry.

The editor also felt that the "height of gallantry was kissing a woman who takes snuff!"

So much for the old Terre Haute Daily American.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Old papers make good reading

Ts NOV 2 1 1991

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

When the remodeling and updating of the Terre Haute Waterworks was started in 1968, workmen discovered the copper cornerstone box while cutting away stone projections on the aging building.

For some reason, the metal box had not been sealed as was the usual method, and the contents were in bad condition. The newspapers were so discolored and in such deteriorated condition, it was barely possible to make out the date — Sept. 7 and 8, 1900, issues of the Terre Haute Express and the Daily Tribune.

The tiny printed booklet, "Rules and Rates of the Terre Haute Water Works Co.," dated 1898, was eaten away in some places, but most of the pages were still readable and most interesting.

The brass "rosette" filters used in the building when it was new were found in the box. These filters were the same type still in use in 1968.

The 1900 dateline was a puzzler until the old newspapers yielded a small paragraph buried in the back pages of the Saturday, Sept. 8, Express.

"A corner stone for the building which will contain the new filters to be installed by the T.H. Waterworks Co. will be laid this afternoon at 4 o'clock in the presence of the officials of the company and the contractors. A number of records will be placed in the corner stone and after the ceremony, the men who will work on the building will be given a boat excursion on the Mallard."

A tiny picture of the river boat Mallard was found in the box. It appeared to have been a houseboat-type steamer with a top deck shaded by a tent-like structure.

The top deck was reached by a ladder, and there was a pilot's cabin topside, chairs and fishing facilities along the lower deck, and the paddle wheel could be seen.

Following the Saturday excursion, the workers had Sunday to recuperate for Monday morning at the building site. When it was completed, the T.H. Waterworks probably was one of the most photographed buildings in the city. It appears in many different views on the popular postcards of that day.

In 1898 the office of the water company was located at 513 Ohio St. Officers were Frank McKeen, president; Dr. S.J. Young, vice president; A.W. Harris, treasurer; L.L. Williams, superintendent; and H.K. Lease, secretary. The local waterworks was incorporated in 1871.

All water rates were paid semi-annually in advance on Jan. 1 and July 1 in 1898. After 14 days of non-payment the water was turned off. Meter rates were 30 cents per 1,000 gallons as a minimum. Most water users paid specially computed rates for their particular type of business.

For example, it cost $5 per year for each dwelling of six rooms or less occupied by one family; $1 per year for each additional room; and $3 per year for each additional family living in the house.

Dyeing and scouring establishments had to pay $30 to $50 a year. Greenhouses were charged $15 per year for 1,000 square feet, $25 for 2,000. For over 2,000 feet, they paid 5 cents per 100 feet.

Livery stables paid for each stall, including washing buggies with a nozzle not larger than one-fourth inch; 10 horses or less, $2.50 for each horse.

If the stable housed more than 10 horses, each horse was charged $2. Private stables were charged $3.50 for one horse, $6 for two, and $2 for each additional horse.

Offices and sleeping rooms were charged $5 per year for each room. Printing offices were charged $10 to $25 yearly. This also was true of photography galleries, saloons, soda fountains and banks. Restaurants were charged $15 each and up.

Barber shops had to pay $5 for the first chair and $2.50 for each additional chair. Blacksmith shops paid $4 a year for the first fire and $2 for each additional shop. Baths were charged $10 a year for each public bathing tub, $3 per year for each tub for private bathing.

Stores, 25 feet or less, including washing windows and steps, were charged $10 per year; over 25 feet they were charged 25 cents per foot. Bakeries paid $3 a year for each barrel of flour they used daily on an average. No bakery was charged less than $10 per year.

Steam boilers for heating houses cost $3 per year; for heating stores $5. Cows cost $1.50 per year each. Churches paid $10 to $40, according to their size.

Cigar manufacturers paid $10 if they hired five hands or less; each additional hand cost $2.

Water rates for concrete cost by the square yard. From 4 inches thick up to 18 inches thick cost from 1 cent to nearly 4 cents.

Service pipes in streets and alleys were lead in 1898 unless more than 2 inches inside diameter, and then they were cast iron. All lead pipe needed to be extra strong. For example, 3/8-inch bore lead pipe had to weigh 2 pounds per foot.

According to the "Terre Haute City Directory" for 1898, there were 45,200 people living here. It was predicted that before the 1900 federal census, several thickly settled suburbs should be taken into the city, especially that part south of Hulman Street and west of Seventh Street, and later on Highland and Collett Park Place.

The directory predicted a period of prosperity and a steady increase in population for our city. Certainly the Water Works was aware of this increase, for they were careful to rule out the use of hand hose for any purpose whatever, without a nozzle, and in no case for yard or street sprinkling, washing windows, sidewalks or steps more than four hours per day, and discontinued in case of fire.

They were taking no risk of running out of water. Those who had fountains in their yards could only use them six hours a day per season.

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TERRE HAUTE INDIANA

Turtle soup for 10 cents a bowl

Paper necktie was free purchase of box of collars

Clark Dorothy

TS MAY 19 1991

Historically speaking

Clark retired as The Tribune-Star's women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column since 1956. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In 1872, the Terre Haute Daily Journal was published by Edmunds and Jordan. The office was on the corner of Third and Main streets. Edmunds became Terre Haute's mayor in 1876 and was re-elected for a second term. He continued in the newspaper business for 25 years.

Unlike some of the newspapers of that period, the Daily Journal preferred to group like advertisements and notices under bold, black-type headlines — one such heading was known as the "Professional Column."

Advertising in this column were "Drs. Water and Elder, Homoepathic Physicians and Surgeons, located on Cherry Street between Sixth and Seventh."

The office of Stephen J. Young, M.D., was at No. 12 on South Fifth Street, opposite St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He promised "prompt attention paid to all professional calls, day or night.

"Drs. Stevenson and Roberts, office 110 Opera House Block, upstairs. Residence at the Terre Haute House. Office hours 9 to noon, and from 2 to 4 p.m.

"R. Van Valzah, Surgeon and Mechanical Dentist, No. 106 Main St., Opera House Block upstairs, over Warren, Hoberg & Co.'s Store."

Under the heading of "Book Binding" was listed: "Jos. Kashberg has established his new place on Sixth opposite the Post Office . . . also binds magazines." In those days, people had their magazines bound by the year and would shelve them and refer back to articles.

Another bookbinder listed in the Journal was "C.A. Schnabel, over Burnett's leather store at No. 146 Main St."

William Coats, a house and sign painter, offered "graining, paperhanging, glazing, etc." His store was at the corner of Main and Third, upstairs in the Farrington Block.

A. Reif & Sons, gas and steam fitters, were located on Ohio between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Jacob Butz and his son, George C. Butz, advertised that the National House, corner of Sixth and Main, had been recently, thoroughly renovated and re-furnished.

At the Dye House of H.F. Reiner, on Main between Sixth and Seventh, "Gent's and Ladies' Wear" could be "cleaned and colored," and "Gent's Wear repaired neatly."

Everything in the Grocery and Produce line was for sale cheap in 1872 at the store of "George H. Purdy, No. 40-42 Main St., McGregor's Block." He paid "the highest cash price for butter, eggs, poultry, rags, beans, hides, old iron, sheep pelts, chicken, ducks, turkeys and other country produce."

Under "Local Notices" was the news that Samuel C. Scott had just purchased from F.C. Crawford the Boot & Shoe House, No. 98 Main St., formerly Murray's old stand."

Charles May had just opened a new meat shop at the corner of Eighth and Main streets.

The drug house of W.C. Buntin & Co. changed to Buntin & Armstrong when W. H. Armstrong purchased interest in the firm. Buntin had spent the previous winter in Philadelphia learning all the latest developments in the profession of pharmacy and while there he hired J.H. Bringhurst Jr., a "thorough and practical Pharmaceutist and Chemist."

A fine free lunch consisting of all the luxuries in season, served in the finest style, was set every forenoon from 9 to 11 o'clock at the well-known and popular Metropolitan Saloon on North Lafayette Street. Everybody was cordially invited to drop in and partake of the good things on the table.

The Brilliant Saloon on Second Street, between Main and Cherry, north of the Anderson House, was opened the evening of March 23, 1872, with a grand free reception. This establishment was fitted up in excellent style and the bar stocked with the choicest and purest of liquors.

Turtle soup at the Teutonia Hotel Saloon was offered for only 10 cents a bowl.

C. Kuhlman applied to the county commissioners for a license to sell spirituous and intoxicating liquors in less quantities than a quart at a time for one year. The premises where the booze was to be sold and imbibed was located at the northwest corner of Eighth and Poplar streets.

Other persons applying for liquor licenses in 1872 were Catherine Cane, southside Main between First and Second; Jeremiah Haley, northside of Main between 10th and 11th; James M. Davis, northwest corner Second and Main; John A. Bryan, northside of Ohio between Third and Fourth; William Norris, northeast corner Second and Main, in Middletown, Prairie Creek Township; and George W. Morland, at Fountain Station (Fontanet), Nevins Township.

The big rage for paper dresses and other items of clothing is really not so new. In 1872, Fred Schlewig, merchant tailor, located at 142 Main, between Sixth and Seventh (yes, that was before the Philadelphia numbering system was instituted by the U.S. Post Office) was selling both linen and paper collars. In fact, each buyer of a box of collars was given free a "fine paper necktie!"

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

News of the day

City supported many newspapers in the past

TS FEB 16 1992

In 1878, a reporter for The Daily Express was shown a complete file of The Wabash Enquirer of 1838, published in Terre Haute. It clearly shows the events that transpired in this, at the time, new and wild country.

It was about the size of The Daily Express and was published every Saturday morning by J.P. Chapman, editor, terms $2 per annum. The first paper was issued July 4, 1838, and was strictly Democratic in principle.

The Enquirer struck out red hot in the first editorial by declaring Congressman Bond uttered "no less than 347 falsehoods in one single speech."

A.H. Woodruff advertised that almanacs for 1838 were for sale at the Wabash Book Store. He also would pay cash for rags, and had for sale Dr. Beecher's lecture on "Scepticism" and Miss Beecher's on the "Slave Question."

The only "found" notice was "a light blue calico cape belonging to a female dress . . . which the owner can obtain on application at the office of The Enquirer."

The newspaper wanted an apprentice, "must be from 12 to 15 years old and should be able to read and write well. He will be paid liberally and given an excellent improvement of the mind by the free use of a library of 200 volumes."

Thus far, so good, according to the 1878 reporter, but no inducements in the way of billiards, pin pool, pedro, etc. were offered the youth.

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

E. Tillotson had just received an assortment of brass and wood clocks and offered them for sale in 1838.

The news from Washington was quite meager. "The amount of revenue that accrued at Boston during the month of October was $205,415 — an increase of $120,723 from the same month last year."

Maxwell Wood offered "a beautiful property at public sale."

The following gave market news: beef, 4-5 cents a pound; pork, 6 cents; venison hams, 75 cents a pound; butter, 18-20 cents per block; cheese, 16-18 cents; lard, 10 cents; fowl, per dozen, $1.50; eggs, 10 cents per dozen; wheat, 75 cents; corn, 20-25 cents; oats, 20-25 cents; wood per cord, $2; hay, per ton, $10.

What was the old "ghost" town on the Wabash & Erie Canal? It was called "Battle Row" and was the site of an old village. Its name came from the hostilities between two rival factions of Irish laborers who built this section of the Canal in 1849.

The canal diggers were all Irish and about equally divided between "Corkers" and "Way Downers" from Kerry.

Where was the Phoenix oil well? It was located at Seventh and Poplar streets. Geologists called it a fissure or crevice well, because the oil came to that point from a far distant pool through a crack in the underground foundations. When it was plugged in 1928, it was producing 100 barrels of oil per month.

Old Terre Haute newspapers can furnish lots of information, if one has the patience to read them and doesn't have dust allergies. I've noticed some people sit and stare at the microfilm readers at the public library. They begin with the idea of looking up some event or vital record or public scandal or whatever, then get diverted by what they scan and the constant re-focusing of their eyes wears them down. Take a break, is my advice, it will be there next time.

The Daily Union, Volume I, was issued Monday, Sept. 1, 1856. Its motto was "I Know Only My Country, My Whole Country, and Nothing But My Country." Attorney M.S. Durham and George L. Hager were publishers and proprietors. They made it clear they were "for Millard Fillmore and the American State ticket; Andrew Jackson Donelson, vice president."

Next Monday came the startling news that "the business houses and stores were lighted with gas for the first time on Saturday evening last. A new era in the history of our Prairie City. We invite our friends to see Terre Haute by the bewitching magic of gas light."

On Oct. 8, 1856, Hager married Amanda Grigsby. It was half his paper, so he could make that announcement if he so desired.

But on Oct. 25, 1856, the partnership was dissolved. A.W. Jones purchased Hager's interest, and the newspaper owners now were Durham and Jones.

The life of The Daily Union ended with Volume I, No. 60, on Nov. 10, 1856, following the election of Buchanan.

By 1881, Terre Haute supported the following newspapers: Weekly Indiana Statesman, Saturday Evening Mail, Saturday Evening Ledger, Weekly Saturday Night, Monthly School-Education, German Terre Haute Banner, Weekly Terre Haute Enterprise, Terre Haute Express (daily and weekly), Terre Haute Evening Gazette, Weekly Gazette, Terre Haute Saturday Courier, and the Terre Haute Daily News.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
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City's first white child recalls childhood

Ts MAY 31 1992

Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

In 1871, Capt. William Earle, first white male child born in Terre Haute, wrote his memories of his birthplace. Orphaned at an early age, he fulfilled his ambition to sail the seas and see the world, but he never forgot his childhood home.

The first house on the south end of First Street was a blacksmith shop. This was the northeast corner of First and Poplar, and William Mars worked there.

On the next lot was a two-story frame occuppied by Ezekiel Buxton, a painter. Midway between Walnut and Ohio on First lived a carpenter named Bacon. Opposite Bacon's on the west side of First was McCabe's Hat Shop.

Col. Thomas H. Blake's law office was on the southwest corner of First and Ohio. Dr. Clark's office was in the same house — law and physic in the same room.

A large frame building occupied the northwest corner of First and Ohio where Isaac C. Elston had a store in the corner room, and Dr. Shuler lived in the other part.

On the east side of the street, midway between Ohio and Main, was a small one-room house used as a grocery. The Eagle & Lion Tavern stood at the southeast corner of First and Main. It was built of hewed logs and weatherboarded. At the corner, on two posts, hung the tavern sign showing an eagle picking out a lion's eyes (America tearing England into shreds!). This was only 11 years after the War of 1812.

On the west side of First Street, nearly up to Mulberry, was a small frame house occupied by James Hanna, a chairmaker by trade. Enoch Dole lived in a large, two-story house on the southeast corner of First and Mulberry. Nearly adjoining on the south was another large house in which Matthew Redford was born early in October 1818.

According to Earle, Mr. Jacquess, a wheelwright, lived in the first house on the southeast corner of Second and Mulberry, a two-story hewed log house.

Turning off Cherry Street east on the northeast alley corner, between Second and Third streets, stood a little square frame house, in which worked a shoemaker, Charles Thompson. One day, while he was working at his bench, a boy named Decatur Hanna (Cate Hanners) came in, and seeing a gun in the corner of the room, said, "I'm going to shoot you, Thompson," at the same time pointing the gun at him.

Thompson told him to put the gun away as it was loaded, but the poor man had hardly stopped talking before the trigger was touched and Thompson was almost instantly killed.

Hanna could not have been more than 9 years old at the time, and, of course, the killing was considered an accident. This was the first dead person young Earle had ever seen.

Still following Second Street, the next house was on the west side, second lot north from the corner of Main, a two-story frame. The town's first newspaper, The Western Register & Terre Haute General Advertiser, was printed here by John W. Osborn, Esquire, editor, publisher and proprietor.

On the northwest corner of Second and Main was a tavern kept by Francis Cunningham. The store of John D. Early, a large frame building, was on the northeast corner.

On the north was a store owned by Josephus and Stephen S. Collett. The two-story frame with red roof later was owned by John F. Cruft.

On the west side of the square was the store and dwelling of Mr. Wilson, father of Ralph Wilson. They both were one-story frame houses.

Halfway between Ohio and Walnut was the store of Major George W. Dewees. It was of round logs, with the end to the street. His living quarters were in the rear of the store, a one-story frame building.

On the southeast corner lot of Second and Walnut was the home and hat shop of Robert Brasher. Two large hewed log houses occupied the northwest and southwest corners of Second and Poplar.

There were no other houses on Second Street. The jail stood on the southeast corner of the alley on Swan between First and Second. It was built of smoothly hewed logs, as was the floor. Daylight was admitted through a small grated window and keyhole.

The first house on Third, commencing at the south end, according to Earle, was Robert S. McCabe's dwelling. It was on the west side, near the corner of Poplar Street, a two-story built of hewed logs. It later was occupied by Salmon Wright who weatherboarded it.

Across Third Street was the large two-story house of hewed logs belonging to Dr. Modesitt. The frame dwelling on the southwest corner of Third and Walnut was occupied by Malcomb McFadden, but owned by Joseph and Samuel Eversole, coopers, whose shop of round logs adjoined it on the south.

Hannah Austin lived on the east side of Third, and George Elliston's blacksmith shop was on the west side.

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1992

Newspaper offered accounts of 1840s

T3 OCT 04 1992 *Clark, Dorothy

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

We're indebted to early newspaper reporters who interviewed the early residents of Terre Haute and surrounding areas for the so-called first-hand accounts of who, what, where and why in earlier days. Col. R.W. Thompson was ready to recollect at the drop of a hat.

He told how Kinney, Wright & Gookins was a leading law firm here at the time he arrived in Terre Haute. Also, he remembered Griswold & Usher. Judge Huntington had gone on the bench, and Judge Farrington, father of George, had already retired from practice. Stephen G. Dodge was a New Yorker who came here and practiced law, and there was a young man named Henry.

Thompson's firm was Barbour & Thompson. Woolsey Barbour was his partner. Several young men studied in his office at Third and Ohio. Among them were Harvey D. Scott, Robert N. Hudson, the Trogdons of Paris, Ill., Major W.W. Carter, G.F. Cookerly, Thomas B. Long, Col. Crane (who moved to New York), and Judge Lee (who moved to Albuquerque, N.M.). He always had a houseful of young lawyers around, he said.

When asked who built the building at Third and Ohio, Thompson told how W.C. Linton put it up, and after he died his widow married Lucious H. Scott. It was sort of a double building. Thompson had an office on the corner in the downstairs room, and the Scotts lived in the west part of the building.

The White Hall was a hotel kept in those days at the southwest corner of Third and Mulberry. It was a two-story building where Thompson boarded with his family for a while. So did W.B. Tuell. The White Hall was kept by James S. Freeman. The Eagle Hotel was a frame building across the street at the northeast corner. It was run by George Boord. D.W. Watson had his plumbing shop across the street.

According to Thompson, travel was by stage coach. It took sometimes 24 hours to go to Indianapolis. He remembered when he went to a Whig convention with Tom Dowling, Jesse Conrad and James Farrington. They started about 8 a.m., traveled all day and night, and did not get there until the next day.

On the way back, when they got to Brazil, they stopped off at Mrs. Cunningham's tavern. Farrington and Thompson were so tired and broken up by the trip they laid down and went to sleep. "The stage went off and left us," Thompson said. "We started to walk to Terre Haute, but we found a fellow with a horse and wagon and hired him to bring us in."

The stage coaches were three-seated affairs, and for nine persons the front seat had its back to the driver and was rather sloping. "This was my favorite seat," he said, "as I could stretch out my legs, and I got so used to it that I could get some sleep while traveling."

When Thompson first came to town, in the fall of 1843, the population was between 1,500 and 2,000 people. The south side of the courthouse square was taken up by the old State Bank.

He lived in a house at the corner of Fourth and Ohio, a two-story frame. The Chadwick house then was standing just west of where he lived, and from the Chadwick house which was then occupied by Charles Groverman, Mrs. Blake's brother, to the corner down on Third, there was no other house until the Johnson Place on the southeast corner of Third and Ohio. Johnson was Riley McKeen's father-in-law.

Thompson's office at Third and Ohio, southwest corner, then was known as the Sparks building.

The year he lived at Fourth and Ohio, Thompson planted a garden in 1844-45 as the yard had a high fence. He was living there when he was elected to Congress where he served two terms.

Col. Thompson also lived, or rather boarded, at the National Road House. It was kept by a man named Munson, and stood out on Main Street near 11th Street, in the 1840s a large and fashionable place. There was no house to the east, between this place and the Gilberts where the park is now. There was no house on the east side until the Prairie House.

When asked to describe the first little courthouse, Thompson recalled it was a two-story brick with the courtroom on the first floor that could hold 500 people. There were many public meetings there. The county offices were on the second floor.

Around the building were fine locust trees, but borers got in to them and finally destroyed them. There was a picket fence around the square. The walls of the courthouse began to crack, and it was torn down and finally a new one was built.

When the Terre Haute & Indianapolis Railroad was opened in 1852, it was a big thing for Terre Haute, according to Thompson, and thoroughly appreciated.

He recalled there was no bridge over the Wabash River when he came here in 1843. There was a ferry in operation owned by James Farrington.

The bridge was built at Ohio Street by a stock company. James Johnson, W.R. McKeen's father-in-law, was the bridge contractor. It was borne down by some driftwood in later years, and then the Main Street bridge was built, which was for a long time a toll bridge.

In the winter of 1847, the newspaper quoted prices of food as follows: flour $5 barrel; cornmeal 30 cents bushel; lard 8 cents; potatoes 25 cents; wheat 75 cents; eggs 6¼ cents; butter 12½ cents; sweet potatoes 50 cents bushel; chickens 60 cents dozen; partridges 50 cents dozen; turkeys 27 cents.

Those were the good old days.

(16) * Clark, Dorothy [redacted]

All newspapers have historical worth

TS JAN 10 1993

This writer finds 50-year-old newspapers just as interesting to read as century-old editions. Local history is learned from them all.

For example, the Clinton Public Library, a gift of Andrew Carnegie, finally was opened to the public on Nov. 22, 1911, after five years of controversy and very slow progress.

It seems the board and other officials were not in harmony, so no effort was made for any type of dedication or opening ceremonies.

According to one Clintonian, "The doors were just thrown open to the public, and that was all there was to it."

Girls with freckles in 1911 were urged to try Wilson's Freckle Cream on sale at Arthur Baur's Pharmacy. Two large jars of this product were guaranteed to bleach a tan.

In that year, the Indiana Suit & Skirt Co. was located on the second floor of the Odd Fellows Building, corner of Eighth and Ohio.

Keuneke's Millinery had two stores, at 421 Wabash Ave. and 22 S. Fourth St. Untrimmed hats were selling for 50 cents up, while hats trimmed with fancy feathers and wings cost 95 cents up.

Tribune want ads cost 1 cent a word in 1911, and the Terre Haute Water Works had a very graphic three-column ad showing the contrast between the housewife who was "still tied to the pump," and the progressive housekeeper who enjoyed "filtered water in the kitchen at a nominal cost." That cost was less than a "red postage stamp per day."

The advertisement continued: "There are some who can not afford even a postage stamp a day, but the large majority of men who work for wages, who do not hesitate to ride on the street cars or smoke a cigar, can easily afford filtered water in the kitchen.

"In a six-room house, the rate is 1½ cents per day ... Some have put off their wives with excuses of various kinds. Now, right now, before the weather is any colder, is the time!"

Husbands all over town were getting an earful after that newspaper hit the porch.

Lederer-Feibelman Co., located opposite the Traction Station, had a full-page ad for their big Thanksgiving Day sale. In addition to their usual drygoods, clothing and furniture, they were offering fully dressed poultry, chicken and ducks at 13½ cents a pound, turkeys only 22 cents a pound.

Men's clothing could be purchased at John Bruno's, 1517 Wabash; Lee Goodman & Sons, 410 Wabash; Kleeman Dry Goods Co., Sixth Street and Wabash; and Thorman & Schloos, 668-670 Wabash.

In November 1911, Central Christian Church conducted its annual bazaar in the church parlors at Seventh and Mulberry. Each night of the weeklong event different entertainment was planned. The ladies gave little plays, acted out a gypsy wedding, Spanish drills, Greek tableaux, Indian pow-wow, Japanese drill, sang Dutch songs and gave several readings.

Church ladies mentioned were Lydia Mills, Eva Martin, Ida Mills, Hyla Mills and Martha Williams; and Mrs. Sam Axe, Mrs. W.A. Russell, Mrs. Curtis Drake and Mrs. C.A. Ecker.

Women took their civic duties seriously in 1911. A committee of seven women calling themselves the Red Cross Patrol Brigade bore down on the fire headquarters company armed with needles, thread, and Red Cross seal badges and proceeded to decorate the firefighters.

This brigade started from the police station at 9 a.m. to carry out this publicity stunt to boost the sale of Red Cross seals during the Christmas season.

With Patrolman Bishop handling the reins, the wagon decorated with huge posters attracted much attention as it sped along Wabash Avenue with the women on board.

Mrs. Nora Ragsdale and Harriet Oakley, Martha Hensel, Maude Wehr, Ruth Schuster, Dora Burr and Rhoda Welding rode from firehouse to firehouse decorating squad after squad of firefighters as their deft fingers sewed on the little badges.

As they rode along on the patrol "paddy" wagon, the women blew horns and yelled "Red Cross! Red Cross! Rah! Rah! Rah! Red Cross Christmas Seals! Rah! Rah! Rah!" Their stunt sold so many seals that a rush order had to be sent from Indianapolis.

These women, if they had taken time off to have coffee, could probably have organized an early version of H.E.L.P. and tackled some more local civic problems.

Historically speaking

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

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Valley heritage

(17) *Clark, Dorothy (+) * [illegible]

Terre Haute Post tells of 1931

TS AUG 22 1993

Old relics and curiosities kept by previous generations frequently are found when a long-time business moves to a new location or goes out of existence.

One of these "finds" was a copy of the last issue of the local newspaper The Terre Haute Post dated Saturday, Feb. 28, 1931. On the masthead was the message, "Buy Now — It will pull men to work and pay you dividends."

This "Home" edition cost three cents and was in its 25th year of publication. Above the date was the statement: "Complete wire reports of United Press, the Greatest Afternoon News Service."

On the front page was a two-column box of "Appreciation and Farewell. With the issues of today the ownership of The Terre Haute Star and The Terre Haute Post passes to the Tribune Publishing Co.

Unification of newspaper ownership had taken place in many cities of the United States in the past decade because of changing economic conditions. The result was better newspapers, with larger opportunities and facilities for meeting the desires and needs of readers and communities.

The Star Publishing Co. had been identified with Terre Haute for more than a quarter of a century. An intimate part of community life and activity, it formed fast friendships and won loyal supporters. The officials and executives of the company could not retire from Terre Haute without expressing their lasting gratitude for the many evidences of friendship, and their deep regret over the severance of ties of long duration.

Representatives of the Star Publishing Co. went on to promise "the Tribune's long and successful career offered assurance that the newspapers would continue with increased effectiveness, to serve the people of Terre Haute and the Wabash Valley in all good causes and in every enterprise of advancement . . ."

For the time being, the Star continued to operate in its same location directed by Edgar White, business affairs, and George Padgett, editorial affairs.

The news of 62 years ago was not so different from today's news. The 71st Congress was dying unmourned, leaving behind disputes still raging about the Federal Farm Board, drought relief, the Federal Power Commission, Muscle Shoals, the world court, the lame duck constitutional amendment, naval construction, an oil tariff and veteran's relief.

This vet's loan bill was enacted over President Hoover's veto. Paul F. Bridges, an employee of Indiana Welding Co. here, was the first Terre Haute veteran to obtain a check at the Veteran's Bureau at Indianapolis under the new adjusted compensation law.

Bridges of 432 N. 13th St. told a reporter that he enlisted in B Company, Indiana National Guard, under Capt. Gay Monninger.

Al Capone had been sentenced to six months in jail for contempt of court in Chicago, the beginning of the end of the reign of that infamous gangster.

In spite of the Depression, Page 3 was devoted entirely to Society news, and Pages 4 and 5 to local theaters. The Grand featured Nancy Carroll in "Stolen Heaven." Joel McCrea was at the Orpheum. Ronald Colman and Loretta Young were at the Indiana. Buck Jones was riding at the Liberty, and the American was showing Charles Farrel and Janet Gaynor.

At least eight local theaters could afford to advertise in 1931, including the Swan, Lyceum and Savoy.

Tom's Market, 1709 Wabash, advertised eggs at 17 cents a dozen; real butter cost 32 cents per pound; beef roast at 17 cents per pound; bacon only 35 cents, coffee for 37 cents, tangerines 10 cents a dozen and celery 5 cents a bunch!

Published daily except Sunday, The Post's editor, John C. Shaffer, was also editor of The Muncie Star and The Indianapolis Star. One of the popular features of the editorial page were the "Pa Vigo Letters." For example: "To Al Carbon . . . Workmen tell me that you have Fairbanks Park ready for the portion of Dresser Drive that will pass through it. Good. Now, I wonder if you cannot set a long row of sycamores on each side of the future site road. This act may stimulate county officials to do something immediate about that drive."

"To Dr. L.N. Hines . . . Sorry our idea about trading Parsons Field for a site for the new training school isn't feasible. It's up to boosters of the project, your official family, the mayor and council to get together on finding a site for this new school. We surely hope this can be done soon so that work on it can be started this summer."

Because of the Depression, there were no jobs available in the Help Wanted column. There were fewer than a page of classified ads in the old Post. The last page of The Post was filled with church notices. Listed were 82 different and related organizations.

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By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

1994

A Clark, Dorothy (+) A [redacted]
P(K)

Paper named 'heaviest man'

Ts APR 24 1994

At 264 pounds, T.B. Snapp biggest in town

Historically Speaking

By Dorothy Clark
Special to the Tribune-Star

Back in the 1870s, the Terre Haute Daily Express carried an unusual story titled "Antipodes — Who are our heavy weights and who are not?" In other words, "Who is the biggest man in town?"

According to the editor, "the biggest man in town is Colonel T.B. Snapp, of the Ninth Street planing mill. He was born in Vincennes in 1828, but has been a citizen of Terre Haute most of his life."

In contrast to Snapp, who weighed 264 pounds, the editor reported that "the smallest man in the city is Wesley Weathers, of Wright's Photograph Gallery. He is 3 feet and 7 inches high, weighs 74 pounds, and is 35 years of age. He was born in Marshall, Illinois, and has spent a part of his life in Evansville where he was in the same business."

It seems Weathers grew very little until he was 14 years of age, and was an object of great wonder to his neighbors. His smallness of stature was a matter of some wonder to strangers, who stared at him rudely on the streets.

The Express editor explained his choice of Snapp as the heaviest in the city because he resided within its corporate boundaries. But if a man who spent most of his time in town, though his home was outside the city, could be considered in the competition, Snapp would have taken second place.

That man was Maj. William McQuilkin of Sugar Creek Township, where he owned a large farm. He was 5 feet 11 inches high, 58 years old, and weighed 307 pounds. He was born in Cincinnati, but he came here with his parents when he was 2 years old.

McQuilken was probably the only man still living who could say he saw the old courthouse rise and fall. Besides seeing it gradually rise many years before, he happened to be standing on one corner of Granger Square when it fell in 1870.

McQuilkin was a man of very unusual strength. In his younger days there were few men who could stand up and wrestle with him. At the time of the contest, it was said that he could stand with his hands in his pockets, and with merely a sweep with one foot, could knock the legs out from under a common man and whirl him over.

With his jolly round face and low hat, most persons would not suppose he was so tall, but he lacked only an inch of being, like "my massa" in the jubilee song, "6 feet one way, 3 feet tother, and he way 300 poun!"

In 1875 there were other large men in Terre Haute. The Hon. Patrick Shannon, the banker, and Frank Miller, of Robinson's notions store, weighed nearly as much as Snapp and McQuilken.

Other 200 pounders listed were: Col. Buntin, Col. Cookerly, Col Hudson, Col. Dowling, the Hon. B.W. Hanna, William Tuell, William Mack, the Hon. D.W. Voorhees, William Ball, Geo. W. Leek, John Matlock, William Hawkins, J.S. Jordan, and Sheriff Carico.

Also, Ben Regan, Herman Imbery, Chris Reichart, A.L. Crawford, R.S. Cox, Richard Houseman, W.S. Clift, William Barrick, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Read, W.R. Hunter P. Leonard, W. Naylor, C.H. Rottman, L. Seeburger and Jerry Voris.

The editor of 1875 suggested that "readers who know of other 200 pounders should so notify him."

There was an immediate reaction to the Express story. The article caused much gossip and discussion. Several men were seen going to the depot or feed store to get weighed. There seemed to be much quarreling as to who weighed how much.

Word came in to the newspaper that a Mr. Beauchamp of Sugar Creek Township weighed 343 pounds. His wife weighed 277 pounds and their 12-year-old son tipped the scales at 240.

A few days later the Express reported that Mr. Shannon, a Terre Haute citizen, stepped on the scales, weighed in at 275 pounds, and was therefore proclaimed the heaviest resident of this city, outweighing Snapp by 11 pounds.

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